

"And God saw that it was good"

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth . . . the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind . . ." And God made the beast of the earth after his kind . . . and God saw that it was good (Genesis 1:11, 25).

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Nashville, Tennessee

Dentist turned-preacher urges ministerial morality

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — "The news media is bringing to light the sins of many great preachers of the gospel. But they're not limited to the TV stars," Russell Bush told students at New Orleans Seminary.

"Immorality in the ministry hurts us," said the pastor of Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. Although God forgives the sin, "When a preacher yields to immorality, he gives great occasion to the enemies of God to blaspheme."

Bush addressed "The Preacher and Morality from the Layman's Point of View" during the 1988 James H. Tharp Lectures, a series of lectures delivered each year at the seminary

on the general subject "The Preacher from the Layman's Viewpoint."

"A man who is born of God does not habitually practice sin. If you are habitually practicing sin, one of two things exist in your life," said the dentist who became a pastor at age 66. "Either you have never been born again, or you're in trouble."

Bush said Christians who practice sin habitually will be disciplined by God. "He's not going to let (you) get away with it," he said. "He will get your attention. If he's not getting your attention, you don't belong to him."

"He can expose the greatest of us. He doesn't need any of us. He will expose any man that tries to cover up his

sin," Bush said. "But, you can confess that sin right now and claim the promise of forgiveness."

Bush said that in his opinion, a minister who sins habitually has "forfeited" his right to be a leader in God's kingdom:

"It is possible for Christians to act like Christians. We have been given the Spirit of God; we have been given the ability to do it."

He advised, "Commit yourselves to marital faithfulness and love your wife supremely. . . . Love is a matter of choice; it's not an emotion."

"The Bible says as hell is never full neither are the eyes of a man satisfied. And there's an awful lot of

truth in that because the eyes are the windows of the soul and the eyes . . . determine what we think about. You don't need to be looking at things that destroy your soul."

Bush also warned ministers against yielding to racism, accepting a gift that might "compromise your message," and lying.

He said ministers should "tell the truth," and "tell the same thing to everybody." Ministers who do not, not only get into "a lot of trouble, but you'll cause the people in the church who support you to back away," he said.

"I really think that the laypeople in the church want to support their pastors."

"I'm amused when I go to preachers' meetings and hear them talking about how they can work around the deacons. If any of you are teaching anybody else to do that, you need to stop. The greatest supporters any preacher ever had would be deacons who have confidence in their pastors," he said.

"The most important thing for a deacon to think about his pastor is that he's a man of integrity; that he tells the truth."

Bush said, "You need to be the same person in the hallway, or in your office, or in your study, . . . that you are when you're standing up here proclaiming the Word of God."

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Dashed hope for blind daughter opens doors for other children

By Bill Bangham

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — A Cuban mother's five-year quest to restore her daughter's sight ended with a five-minute examination here in mid-February.

A Memphis surgeon, the last hope for Juana Carballeo Lopez of Dinar del Rio, Cuba, and her daughter, Barbara, concluded nothing can be done for the child.

Lopez, a member of the Baptist church in Dinar del Rio, lives on a collective farm with her husband, Antonio, and six other children. Yet the quest took her through the bureaucratic barriers of two countries separated by 90 miles of ocean and 30 years of hostility and suspicion.

Lopez garnered the combined efforts of the Cuban government, Cuban Baptists, the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Baptist Memorial Hospital of Memphis, Tenn., and Memphis surgeon Steve Charles on behalf of her daughter.

Noting her faith drove her to seek whatever help she could find for her youngest child, including writing Fidel Castro, Oscar Romo, head of the HMB's language missions program, said: "This is a 20th century miracle, whether the child can see or not. This lady's faith is bigger than anything we've done."

"Here is a woman who could be bitter, selfish. But instead she's open. She wants to help others. If Castro had enough humanitarian desire for this child to see, we should call it to peoples' attention."

Barbara's blindness is due to retinopathy prematurity, the result of a high oxygen atmosphere in the incubator where she was placed following her premature birth.

The child's blindness was diagnosed

three months after birth, and Lopez began looking for someone to restore her sight. In 1985 the Cuban government sent them to Spain.

In Spain a physician told her he knew of only one surgeon who could possibly help Barbara — Charles in Memphis. She immediately began to seek a way for Barbara.

Lopez is vague about the three-year delay in meeting Charles. She talked about feasibility studies, correspondence between physicians, going through channels to request Charles and the six months it took to get permission to enter the United States.

Romo heard about Lopez a year ago through Raul Suare, a Baptist pastor in Havana. He agreed to help with arrangements if Suare could help them get out of Cuba. Charles agreed to do any surgery free of charge, and Baptist Memorial agreed to cover all in-hospital expenses. Mississippi Baptists own one-third of Baptist Memorial Hospital along with Tennessee and Arkansas.

"All of a sudden last Wednesday I got a phone call that they were in Miami," said Romo. "Everything was falling together."

The Cuban government had paid for their flight to Miami, an Atlanta travel agency donated airline tickets between Miami and Memphis, Baptist Memorial supplied a hotel room and meals, and Temple Bautista, a Memphis Hispanic congregation, provided translators and members to sit with mother and daughter during the long hours awaiting the examination.

Asked beforehand what she would do if the examination proved negative, Lopez responded: "I try to have a lot of faith. I don't want to even think

about it at this point. But I'd rather know than not know. The alternative is not pleasant to think about, but you must go on."

When told after the examination that Barbara has no chance of sight, Lopez wept and said: "Now at least I know." She then asked if Charles could help a friend's two-year-old child who has the same condition. "It's possible," he said. "That's the upper limit."

Charles, a vitreoretinal surgeon who has operated on 800 children with retinopathy prematurity, developed the surgical procedures for correcting this condition. About 35 percent of his cases are successful. The children must be treated before they are 18 months old, no later than two years, he said.

"The message is, if patients are to come from Cuba for this, we've got no waiting list and no expense," said Charles. "But if they wait four years . . . there's no reason for it."

He operated on a child from Cuba four or five years ago.

He offered his services for other Cuban children with this condition. But the U.S. State Department has not allowed him to go to Cuba.

"The message to carry back home," Charles told Lopez, "is there is a physician in Memphis who will operate for free if they'll get them here within six months."

Roy Jennings, director of communications for Baptist Memorial Hospital, said a significant portion of Charles' practice is charity. The hospital has worked with him to provide the service and will continue to do so.

Bill Bangham writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Congratulations in order

Congratulations must be in order for a Mississippi pastor who has become the president of a nationwide body. He is John Thomason, pastor of Northminster Church, Jackson, and the newly elected president of the Southern Baptist Alliance.

There should be congratulations, for Thomason has been recognized as a leader and elected to this high office. There has to be sadness at the same time, in the mind of Thomason as well as in the minds of everyone else, because of the fact that a sizeable group of Southern Baptists feel that the Southern Baptist Alliance is necessary.

Alliance spokesmen insist that the organization is not political in nature, and that can be believed. Yet its very existence develops political overtones. It is described by its own members as a place to go for those who have been cut off from denominational innerworkings. They insist that they have

no thoughts of breaking away from Southern Baptist moorings and forming another denomination.

Another group felt cut off from denominational innerworkings in the late seventies. What they did was to take over the denomination, and now they are running it.

Would the Alliance have such a goal in mind? No one has said.

Surely the membership will be drawn from those known as "moderates," but not all "moderates" will be members.

In an effort to look objectively at what is going on among Southern Baptists, one would have to say that the formation of the Southern Baptist Alliance was not outside the bounds of propriety. Its members declare that it was formed solely for the reason of fellowship. Those of the other side, the "conservatives," also have fellowship meetings and have been having them for a number of years. It was at one

such meeting recently that the content of the material was formulated that was presented at a press conference by three former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention.

That was a closed meeting, however. Surely the meetings of the Southern Baptist Alliance will be open.

At any rate, we salute Mississippi Pastor Thomason upon his election as president of the Alliance. In these troubled times, being president of one of our groups is a very sensitive and soul-searching position and not without its elements of danger career-wise.

We don't look for his tenure to be a pleasant one. We hope that it will be meaningful from his standpoint. We are sure that his administration will be meaningful to the members. And we pray that it will in some way find a way of bringing some measure of solace to the whole of Southern Baptists.

Guest opinion . . . One missionary doctor's viewpoint

Our problem — a diagnosis

By Sam Cannata, M.D.

Yes, we have a controversy in our midst. There are some in our midst who are defending the Word of God from others in our midst who, they say, are challenging the Word of God. Now, those who challenge the infallible and living word of God are on a dangerous ego trip.

However, those who have taken it upon themselves to defend Almighty God and his Word are also on a rather foolish ego trip. Most people will say that they are not in either of those camps, but we are all responsible for the problem.

I see our controversy as only a symptom of a much worse disease. The real disease is that we are disobedient — all of us — conservatives, moderates, pastors, lay-people, institutions, missionaries — across the board; we are not carrying out the Great Commission. We are not making disciples. In fact, for many years, we have not been making disciples. Oh yes, we have been baptizing (sometimes many) in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; but that is the easy part of the Great Commission. The tough part is "making disciples."

I contend that if we had been obedient to this part of the Great Commission — at this time in our history God would be moving with remarkable power in our midst. We would all be so involved with what He was doing in our world that we would not have time to argue with each

other. We would all be so busy "making the most of every opportunity" (Eph. 5:16 & Col. 4:5) and investing our lives in the lives of others that if anyone wanted to argue we would just do as Paul advised Timothy and "not have anything to do with such arguments" (II Tim. 2:23). When many exciting things are happening in our lives and the lives of others, we just don't have time for bickering.

But alas, that is not the way it is now! The way it is, we are seeing the crumbling of our great denomination. Every year our statistics are going down: less percentage of growth, fewer baptisms, less percentage of attendance, less per capita giving. Why? Simply because we have not made disciples — yea, verily — we have not become disciples either.

Do our reports sound like that group of New Testament disciples of which it was said, "these that have turned the world upside down." (Acts 17:6)? Hardly. Instead of our being about the business of evangelizing the world, we can hardly keep up with our own birth rate in baptisms.

One of our basic problems is that we have equated a "decision to follow Jesus" as producing a "life that follows Jesus." Look at the percentage of our absentee members and you will see this is obviously a false assumption. In fact, over 50 percent of our church membership, convention wide, is absent every Sunday and in many local instances much more than this.

We have become a "decision" oriented people; but the New Testament is a "daily walk," a "lifestyle" oriented book.

Yes, everyone has to "decide" to follow Christ, and we have called many to make the "decision," but what did we do after that? May I be so bold as to say we have been "totally irresponsible" as spiritual parents.

We would condemn loudly the parents that brought a baby into the world and then left it to fend for itself. Can you imagine going into a hospital nursery and finding it full of crying, starving, dying babies and step into the nurses station to find the nurses chatting away, visiting, waiting for the shift to end, with the baby formulas sitting in the cupboard?

"Criminal," we would say. "Convict them of murder!" But, spiritually, we as a denomination, as individual churches, and many of us as missionaries are doing the same.

We are irresponsible if we bring people to the point of making a "decision" for Christ and then do not discipline that person. One problem is that we expect the congregation or one of our programs to "mother and father" that spiritual babe.

Congregations and programs cannot discipline individuals any more than they can mother and father a baby. Disciples are made by committed individuals who will love and nurture a new believer over a long period of time.

Haywood N. Stubble

"STUBBLE, YOU COULD RUN A LOT BETTER IF YOU WOULD LAY ASIDE SOME OF THAT WEIGHT THAT DOETH SO EASILY BESET YOU!"



Without foundation

Thanks to the Mississippi Senate Finance Committee, the bill that would have authorized the gambling ship, Europa Star, to operate in Mississippi waters is dead. The bill died in that committee.

Mississippi Baptists and Mississippians generally can be thankful for the action of the committee that stopped the bill short of the Senate floor. Hopefully, the bill would have met the same fate on the floor of the Senate, but that risk never had to be taken.

The issue itself is not dead in that a temporary injunction by a Gulf Coast judge is allowing the ship to operate; but, again hopefully, that also is a temporary situation. With no law protecting the ship, perhaps the law authorities will move to halt its illegal operation.

When will we understand that the public good is not served by activities and conditions that we don't tolerate on a broad basis? We hear that taxes

from gambling would benefit the common treasuries, but we heard the same about the sale of liquor. That was supposed to benefit our school systems. Now we're having to scratch to find money to bring our teachers' salaries up to par.

The dog race track at Mobile is in trouble because attendance is down by 34 percent. A spokesman said the track would have to be promoted as entertainment rather than a gambling facility. There is not much to be said for dog racing as entertainment, however.

As far as taxes are concerned, it is better for us to take care of our own needs by each one giving a little bit rather than hoping someone else will come in and bring tax money with him. That might work for awhile, but it soon wears thin. Then the expectations that had been built up would be left without foundation.

To make a disciple takes commitment, love, and time — time — time. In fact someone has said that LOVE is spelled T-I-M-E. True disciples are committed to spending time — lots of time — in order to make other disciples.

But another problem is that due to our rush, rush lifestyle, we are more selfish with our time than anything else. We spend much time going to meetings but don't have time to make disciples, which is our principal task.

Very few of us are willing to pay the price to disciple, therefore due to our disobedience to the command of the Lord and the life style of total commitment which it requires, God is doing very little in our midst. There are signs of life here and there; but overall, as proved by our statistics,

everything is on the downhill slide.

As a result, we have lots of time to disagree and fight, and the enemy has given us much ammunition to shoot at each other. Our controversy is a result of spiritual fruitlessness which is a result of disobedience by nearly all of us across our whole theological spectrum. Most of us, including conservatives, moderates, etc., have preached "decisions" without discipling.

The answer is not, as some suggest, getting everybody to subscribe to a cold orthodoxy. One can believe all the facts of the Bible, subscribe to the Baptist Faith and Message, etc., without dying to self and being filled with the person of the Holy Spirit to make him or her a servant. Any life

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Invitation opens door to TV broadcast in China

By Dick McCartney

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission President Jimmy R. Allen accepted an invitation last summer to attend dedication ceremonies for a new national television center in China. Now he's going back and taking 100 men with him.

Allen attended the dedication in Beijing, China, in August, 1987. At that time, Guo Bao Xiang, general manager of the International TV Service Co. of China Central Television, recalled with favor a visit to China of the Centurymen and asked about the possibility of their making a return visit to his country. The Centurymen, a male chorus of 100 Southern Baptist ministers of music was organized by the Radio and Television Commission years ago to provide music for The Baptist Hour broadcasts.

Allen told Xiang a return engagement could be arranged if the chorus

could be invited to perform the kind of music they usually sing on national television. When Xiang agreed, wheels were set in motion for the Centurymen to return. It resulted in an unprecedented opportunity, and a whole series of firsts.

The Christian message will be sung on national television in what is believed to be the first time since establishment of the People's Republic of China. Allen said the Centurymen, under Burly Red's direction, will sing a concert of American and European hymns and anthems, Chinese traditional songs and hymns as well as American folk songs and spirituals.

The Centurymen's trip also makes possible another first time event. After the national TV appearance, a concert is planned in the Hall of the People at Nanjing. This will mark the first time since World War II that a

sacred choral concert has been held outside a church or seminary under the sponsorship of the Chinese Christian Council, according to Lewis Myers, director of Cooperative Services International, a Southern Baptist agency established to enlist Christians for work in nations where missionaries do not work.

The men will be coached in Chinese phonetics to enable them to sing in Mandarin. The contract signed with Central China Television calls for the Centurymen to tape a 90 minute concert in Beijing in November 1988. The program is to be aired during the ten days the Centurymen are in the country.

The Radio and Television Commission will transmit the program over the ACTS network following its broadcast in China, Allen said.

Dick McCartney writes for the Radio and Television Commission.



Left to right, front row, are Reba Young, Citation; Cindy Allred, Citation; Ellen Jeffrey, Queen Regent; Hope Hurst, Citation; and Suzanne Oakley, Citation.

Bruce Acteens achieve a first for Mississippi

Outstanding missions achievement was recognized recently when four young women in the same church received the Mississippi Acteens Citation.

The Citation is the highest level of achievement in Studiact, the Acteens Individual Achievement Plan. Fewer than ten young women in the state had heretofore been presented the Mississippi Acteens Citation.

First Church, Bruce, has nurtured

and encouraged the four young recipients of the Citation. These four are Cindy Allred, Hope Hurst, Suzanne Oakley, and Reba Young.

Citations were presented to the four young achievers by Jan Cossitt, state Acteens consultant, in a special service in their home church and also at the Mississippi Acteens Convention.

Charles Nestor is pastor of First, Bruce, and Mrs. Lily Oakley is Acteens leader.

First Amendment special scheduled on NBC network

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — The role of Baptists in establishing the unique religious freedoms offered American citizens will be the focus of a one hour special on the NBC television network. The program, "The First Freedom," was produced by the Southern Baptist Convention Radio and Television Commission and is scheduled on most NBC stations Sunday afternoon April 17. (check television listings for local times).

Current challenges to the doctrine of religious liberty are examined in the program. New York Gov. Mario Cuomo is heard in his now-famous speech at Notre Dame exploring the potential for divided loyalty between citizenship and religious belief. James T. Draper Jr., former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, comments on how a lack of accountability

by some TV evangelists has tested the limits of their freedom. U.S. Sen. John Danforth, (R) Mo., expresses the concern of many about the breakdown of social values.

Although James Madison is credited with authorship of first amendment rights, the impetus for that freedom predicated the Constitution. University of Richmond Professor Robert Alley explains that Roger Williams introduced to the world the concept of absolute church-state separation when he founded the Rhode Island colony in the 1630s. It was in sharp contrast to the practices of other colonies such as Virginia and Massachusetts Bay where state churches mandated conformity. "First Freedom" is one of four programs produced by U.S. faith groups under the title "The Promise of America."

Crusader Day set for April 23

Lad/Crusader Day at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko will take place April 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., featuring missionary speakers, field events, race car races, and Royal Ambassador Speakouts. Missionary speakers include Carl Wallace from

Peru and Pam Keith from Colombia. The day is planned for Royal Ambassador boys in grades 1-6 and for the \$5 registration fee, includes all activities, insurance, and lunch. A limited number of groups may obtain

(Continued on page 5)

For Gaza Baptist personnel: it's 'white knuckles time'

By Mike Creswell

GAZA (BP) — Southern Baptist personnel in Gaza have been unharmed during three months of violence, but say it has been a "white knuckles time" of tension.

The Palestinian uprising has ranged from rock-throwing mobs and strikes to armed combat, leaving more than 100 dead, hundreds injured and thousands imprisoned. Curfews and tight security measures have been in effect for weeks. Conflict has centered in the occupied territories of Gaza and the West Bank, but also has affected Jerusalem and other parts of Israel.

Southern Baptist personnel in Gaza have avoided life-threatening situations so far, but must restrict their movements in public during curfews and more trouble-prone days, reports Dona Fitzgerald of Waco, Texas,

chairman for the organization of Southern Baptist personnel in Gaza. Conditions are safer than one would infer from news reports, she said.

Workers assigned to Gaza include 19 career workers with 19 children, plus a journeyman and four volunteers. Forty-three career workers, two journeymen, and seven volunteers serve in Israel, where overall conditions have been more peaceful.

Workers assigned to Gaza include 19 career workers with 19 children.

In Gaza, "We're still having some days of total strike when the workers do not get out of their houses. We just kind of watch the situation and go out

when it's safe. When it's not safe or when they're having a total strike, we stay in," Fitzgerald said.

"We've been trying to tell our friends and our families that the (Foreign Mission) Board has given us full backing to leave if it's necessary, but that the initiative to leave is ours. If things get too bad, we can leave. But with the current situation, there is no need to."

Worship services and Bible studies several times a week have continued most days at the single Baptist church in Gaza, attended by 60-70 members.

The Center of Culture and Light, a library and reading room in Gaza, has been closed for several months because stores and other businesses in the area are closed.

Mike Creswell is a missionary journalist.

Itawamba BSU will hold open house

The Baptist Student Union at Itawamba Community College is holding an open house and dedication service at the BSU Center at Fulton, April 24. Open house will be 2-4 p.m.

The dedication service for the 26' x 60' addition to the BSU Center will be at 3 p.m. Martin Hayden, pastor of First, Fulton, will be the guest speaker.

"Turning Point," the ICC BSU ensemble, and other BSU students will be performing during the open house.

Goal reached is not \$40 million in pocket

By Tim Nicholas

"Gifts are continuing to come in," said Harry Vickery, Greenville layman who chaired the recently completed Mississippi Mission. The campaign reached its goal earlier this year of raising \$40 million for an endowment for the three Baptist colleges and the Baptist Children's Village.

This does not mean, though, these institutions have \$40 million in their pockets ready to spend. Much of that money is pledged over the five year program and other amounts are in bonds, insurance, and wills. But even that amount will not be touched, only the interest from the money in hand will be spent. That is the nature of an endowment.

"In five years, based on actuarial tables," said Vickery, "we'll have upwards of \$20 million in cash."

As the campaign stands, as of the end of February, a total of \$23 million had been pledged. However, this is misleading since an additional large amount of money — more than \$17 million — is unreported because of clarifications being made in the state legislature this year concerning mortality laws. Bills under consideration will allow persons writing wills made more than 180 days before death to

give their entire estates to charity. Currently, no more than one third can go to charity. "In the future," said Vickery, "There will be reporting of those numbers which have already been conservatively reported."

Also in the future, according to Vickery and Earl Kelly, executive director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, a number of churches — upwards of 50 — are presently considering contributions toward the campaign. The colleges' and the Village's development offices are handling the details of the endowment campaign now that the campaign office has closed.

In fact, according to Kelly, the campaign "afforded the opportunity of urgency which reaped pledges or commitments which had been in process 10 years or more."

He added, "The success of the campaign depended to a large extent on seeds sown 10 years earlier."

He said that he hoped by July to report out the total amounts that have come in to the campaign.

Vickery said that taking the \$23 million in pledges, the four institutions will receive funds approximating the predetermined formula for dividing undesignated gifts.

Court decisions cloud future of Equal Access

WASHINGTON (BP) — Two recent federal court decisions have shown that implementation of the Equal Access Act of 1984 — a law that gives high school religious clubs the same right to meet on school property enjoyed by other non-academic, extracurricular groups — will not come without legal and practical complications.

Neither court — one in Nebraska, the other in Washington state — struck down the historic law as a violation of the federal Constitution. But both ruled against groups of students whose requests for permission to hold prayer meetings and Bible studies inside public high schools were denied by local school officials.

From a politician's perspective, the equal access legislation was a dream come true, as evidenced by the overwhelming margins it received in both houses of Congress. The U.S. Senate vote was 88-11; in the House of Representatives, the margin was 337-77.

The act's passage came just two years after the then-Republican controlled Senate rejected President Reagan's school prayer amendment and gave senators who had cast votes against that measure — and members of the House who were on record as opposing it — a chance to vote in favor of what many thought was a good compromise for both sides in the school prayer debate. Reagan signed the measure into law in August 1984.

The law reads, "It shall be unlawful for any public secondary school which receives federal financial assistance and which has a limited open forum to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings."

A "limited open forum" is described in the statute as being established "whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more noncurriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time."

Other key provisions include the requirement that such meetings be "voluntary and student-initiated"; that there be "no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government or its agents or employees"; that teachers or other school personnel be present "only in a nonparticipatory capacity"; and that religious leaders from outside the school "may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend" the meetings.

Additionally, the law forbids any governmental entity "to influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity;" "require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity;" "expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings;" or "compel any school agent or employee" to participate in the meetings "if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee."

Besides these and other statutory safeguards in the law itself, a diverse

coalition of educational, religious, and civil liberties organizations developed a set of guidelines for implementing the new law consistent with the constitutional ban on an establishment of religion.

Convened by the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, this coalition included the American Association of School Administrators, American Civil Liberties Union, Christian Legal Society, Americans for Democratic Action, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, National Association of Evangelicals, and National Education Association. A dozen other groups, ranging from Pat Robertson's Freedom Council to Norman Lear's People for the American Way, added their names to the document, stating they were "in general agreement" with the guidelines.

In the Nebraska dispute, U.S. District Judge C. Arlen Beam in February upheld the refusal of the principal of Westside High School in Omaha and the local superintendent of schools to grant permission to a group of evangelical students to form a religious club and meet on campus. The students took the school officials to court, contending the latter had violated the Equal Access Act and denied them their rights of free exercise of religion and freedom of speech.

Beam agreed with the basic position of school officials that no "limited open forum" had been created at Westside High, in spite of the fact permission to organize and meet had been granted to 10 other "noncurriculum related" student groups, including a chess club and photography club.

Beam justified his finding that the religious club alone was not related to the curriculum on the basis of testimony by the school's principal that all 10 approved groups were so related. Further, the judge noted, the principal had testified "that he would consider doing away with all clubs at (Westside High School), if necessary, to ensure that a closed forum . . . could be maintained," thereby avoiding all problems associated with establishing a "limited open forum."

Beam concluded: "The purpose articulated by (school) administrators

for refusing to permit the plaintiffs' club to meet involves the school's goal of presenting a balanced view when political, religious and economic information is dispensed within (school) facilities. The court finds this to be a legitimate educational concern which reasonably justifies (Westside High School's) actions in this case."

In the second case, decided last December, District Judge Walter T. McGovern ruled against four Renton, Wash., students at Lindbergh High School who likewise were denied permission to meet under terms of the Equal Access Act. At Lindbergh High, 15 groups — including a bowling club, ski club, and chess club — had been given permission to organize and meet on school property.

Like their Nebraska counterparts, the students who sought to organize a religious club in Renton sued school officials for violating the 1984 law, as well as their freedom of speech, free exercise of religion and what they called "freedom from state hostility toward religion."

McGovern, as Beam, held school officials at Lindbergh High had not created a "limited open forum" that would have triggered the Equal Access Act. Even more important to his ruling, however, was a prohibition in the Washington state constitution stating, "No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise, instruction or the support of any religious establishment."

He also cited another provision in the state constitution stating, "All schools maintained or supported wholly or in part by the public funds shall be forever free from sectarian control or influence."

That both judges demurred from ruling on the validity of the Equal Access Act under the federal Constitution may be reassuring to supporters of the law, observers said. But they have added such reassurance almost certainly is temporary, as other similar challenges to the denial of student religious clubs' applications come elsewhere.

Eventually, the fate of the law — as that of all others in this country — will rest with the nine justices in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Ministers' wives will focus on Southern Baptist heritage

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — "Heritage — Ours to Give" will be the theme for the 1988 Southern Baptist Ministers' Wives luncheon here Tuesday, June 14.

The luncheon, to be held in conjunction with the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, will begin at 12:15 p.m. in the Hilton Palacio del Rio. The hotel is across the street from the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, site of the SBC meeting.

"We want to be remembering our past and exploring the heritage we want to leave to future generations," said Nelle Agee, president of the SBC

Conference of Ministers' Wives and wife of Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee.

Jeanette Clift George, author, Bible teacher and founder and artistic director of A.D. Players of Houston, will be keynote speaker for the luncheon.

Advance tickets can be ordered before June 1 from Diane Bugg, 415 Waverly Drive, Augusta, Ga., 30909. Ticket orders should include \$12 for each ticket, along with a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Tickets bought at the convention will cost \$14.

Our problem — a diagnosis

(Continued from page 2)

without his power is dead and fruitless. "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord." (Zech. 4:6) One can subscribe to all the right terms and still be dead in the realm of spiritual productivity.

On the other hand, there are those in some of our institutions who would like to say "everything is all right" when in fact, there are many pro-

Liles will lead Start a Cradle Roll

Ann Liles, consultant in the Preschool Section, Baptist Sunday School board, will lead conferences on Starting and Conducting a Cradle Roll. Miss Liles is a graduate of Judson College, and New Orleans Seminary.

The conferences will deal with: Cradle Roll and its potential for growth, interpretation of the Cradle Roll ministry as it relates to ministry and evangelism, ways to start and maintain an active Cradle Roll Department, and a review of available resources.

Conferences will be held: April 18 - 7:9:15 p.m. First Church, Columbus; April 19 - 7:9:15 p.m. First Church, Meridian; April 20 - 9:30-11:45 a.m. E. McComb Church, McComb; April 21 - 7 p.m. - 9:15 p.m. Crossgates Church, Brandon.

There will be no pre-registration nor fee for the conference.



Liles

is married to the former Virginia Curry of Greenville.

blems. In our Baptist universities and colleges, where a large percentage of the student body is "Baptist," again we find the lack of commitment and the rebelliousness of the students many times is traced back to our "decision" oriented emphasis. Most of them have made a "decision for Christ" sometime in the past, but that is not enough to defeat the onslaught of the enemy's forces attacking with sex, alcohol, drugs, materialism, and greed. The result is that we are losing multitudes of our choicest even on our Baptist campuses.

We are not making disciples. Yea, we have not become disciples because true disciples are always in the process of making other disciples. Disciples are faithful, not perfect, but faithful. Our statistics show that it takes over 40 Southern Baptists to win one person to the Lord each year, and every year it takes a few more. These persons who are "won" many times are the result of some campaign or special emphasis in which they were brought to a point of decision. Then we baptize them and they become a statistic. Most of them will fall away in a few months, un-nurtured, un-discipled, unproductive. The rest will continue to struggle along in their spiritual immaturity.

Making disciples is tough, and we have not made many. As a result we have become a denomination filled with baby Christians. This is not only evidenced by our failure to reach out to the lost but by our immature lifestyle as well.

Sam Cannata, a missionary doctor, is married to the former Virginia Curry of Greenville.

(Continued next week)

State Sunday School Convention

April 8-9, 1988
Alta Woods Church
Jackson, Mississippi

Friday, April 8

6:15 p.m. Pre-session Music
6:30 — Theme Music: "People Need the Lord"
6:35 — Congregational
6:40 — Invocation
6:45 — Welcome to Jackson and Alta Woods Church — Frank Thomas
6:50 — Recognitions and Program Overview
7:00 — Congregational Hymn
7:05 — Special Music
7:10 — Keynote Address
7:40 Benediction
7:45 — Conference Session #1

Harry Piland
director, Sunday School Division

Saturday, April 9

8:15 a.m. Pre-session Music
8:20 — Theme Music "People Need the Lord"
8:25 — Congregational Hymn
Invocation
8:30 — Today at the Convention
8:35 — Special Music
8:40 — Message
8:55 — Move to Conferences
9:00 — Conference Session #2
10:05 — Break
10:15 — Conference Session #3
11:20 — Move to Auditorium
11:30 — Congregational Hymn
11:35 — Special Music
11:40 — Special Feature on Outreach Bible Study
12:00 — Lunch (served at the church)
1:00 p.m. — Conference Session #4
2:10 — Move to Sanctuary
2:20 — Congregational Hymn
2:25 — Special Music
2:30 — Message "They Call It Sunday School"

Harry Piland

Sharon Smith

Tom Melzoni
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

3:00 Adjourn

Crusader Day set for April 23

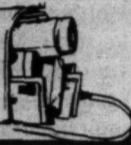
(Continued from page 3)

overnight camping if they supply their own equipment and meals.

Camp space reservations must be made by April 8, though. The field events range from a 25-yard dash to a basketball free throw. The Speakouts are designed to help a boy "become more aware of his mission as a Christian as he works on his subject," according to program materials. Chapters are asked to bring banners which represent their chapters.

Additional features of the program include knot tying, wildlife and first aid events, and a compass walk.

The program is sponsored by the Brotherhood Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Letters to the editor



Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Relinquishing pastorate

Editor:

Today I am relinquishing my responsibilities as pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Jackson.

Will you permit me to reminisce a bit?

My first experience of preaching in Mississippi was about 45 years ago when I drove over from New Orleans Seminary and preached one Sunday as supply pastor at Logtown in Hancock County. The people were gracious. Then, in 1945, I spent a week in the delta in a school of missions at Hollandale, Catchings, and Rolling Fork. That was a very enjoyable experience.

My love for Mississippi and Mississippi Baptist folks grew and grew. For 32 years now I have been a pastor in this state, first with First Church in Biloxi and for 27 years with Calvary Church here in Jackson. I suppose every pastor feels the same as I do, but I want the world to know that in these two churches I have been associated with some of the finest people on the face of the earth. Some of them have been nothing less than giants in faith. They have been my Christian teachers and my encouragers as well as my prayer partners.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow pastors and directors of missions who have invited me into their churches and associations for revivals and Bible conferences. I want to thank a great host of Baptist families who have graciously shared the hospitality of their homes with me on many of these occasions.

I want to express appreciation for Dr. Earl Kelly and all the many good folks in the Baptist Building. They have never, ever failed to help me whenever I turned to them. It has been my loss that I have not spent more time in fellowship with them, but they have had my genuine appreciation for all they do.

I just want to pour out my soul's praises and thanksgiving to God for the way Mississippi Baptists of this generation have served God. I am grateful that it has been my privilege to work in the Lord's vineyard by the side of so many of you. It absolutely has been a marvelous experience.

God bless you!

Joe H. Tuten
Jackson

Up for adoption

Editor:

An infant child can be in excellent health and still need nurturing to full maturity. Many people will jump at the opportunity to adopt such an infant. Yet, there are too few infants to go around; or maybe there are plenty of infants and plenty of families which could offer loving care and they just don't know how to get in touch with each other.

That brings me to the point of this article. Churches are no different from infant children; they both need a loving family to nurture them until they can become productive in their own right.

Shalom Baptist Church is a healthy church in its infant stage. We were organized in September, 1987, with 14 members. At present we have 24 members, and we are quickly outgrowing our present place of worship. The church has made a down payment on some property where we plan to build a permanent place of worship. We plan to pour the foundation for our first unit in late March, 1988, then we will have to wait and do the rest of the building in stages as the church can afford to purchase materials.

To put it short, Shalom Baptist Church is putting itself "UP FOR ADOPTION," to any person, group, church, or association which would be willing to help us in our hour of need.

We presently give 10 percent of our collections to the Cooperative Pro-

gram and two percent to associational missions. Though our own need is very real we feel we must be found faithful in our own giving to our Lord's work. Please pray with us that some person or group would feel led to adopt this infant church and help it nurture itself to full maturity.

If you are interested in Shalom Church as a possible mission project, you may contact the pastor, Ray Hodges, Rt. 2, Box 572, Silver Creek, MS 39663, Ph. 601/694-2160, or contact the Director of Associational Missions; Dr. George Lee, P. O. Box 350, Columbia, MS 39429, Ph. 601/736-2254.

Ray Hodges, pastor
Shalom Church
Silver Creek

Music camp reunion

Editor:

Please help us spread the word about a 40th anniversary celebration and reunion for anyone who has ever attended Harmony Bay Music Camp in Florida. This reunion will take place at Blue Springs Baptist Assembly near Marianna, Florida, Friday night and Saturday, July 29-30, 1988.

Harmony Bay Music Camp was founded by Clifford A. Holcomb and met for the first time in the summer of 1948 at West Florida Baptist Assembly, Panama City. After that property was sold, the music camp began to meet in 1986 at Blue Springs Baptist Assembly. This special celebration will come at the end of this year's Harmony Bay Music Camp scheduled for July 25-30. Among the special guests will be the camp founder, Clifford A. Holcomb and his wife, Louannah; W. G. Stroup and Martha Stroup, camp directors, 1953-1970; Paul and Mayrene Bobbitt and Mrs. Hazel Mikell.

Those attending the reunion will stay in the beautiful new air-conditioned adult center of Blue Springs, enjoy delicious meals together, participate in a planned program as individuals recall their funniest and most meaningful ex-

periences, and enjoy other hours of informal fellowship and sharing. There will be an opportunity, also, to observe the concluding activities of the week-long camp.

Special activities also will include a ceremony to remount the original plaques paying tribute to W. G. Stroup and to Herman Mikell, who was his associate camp director for many years. At the same time, a new plaque will be unveiled and mounted in appreciation of Clifford A. Holcomb.

Total cost for the reunion will be only \$25 for three meals and a shared room (\$33 for private room). For more information, contact the Church Music Department, Florida Baptist Convention, 1230 Hendricks Avenue, Jacksonville, FL 32207. Telephone: 904-396-2351.

Paul Bobbitt, director
Church music Department
Florida Baptist Convention

Lottie Moon's engagement

Editor:

Your recent response to Tony Ludlow's letter concerning conservatism in the Convention and Toy's relationship with Lottie Moon stirred me to some extra research.

Moon's interest in the theology of Toy is documented in *Our Ordered Lives Confess*, by Irwin T. Hyatt. He devotes 71 pages to Lottie Moon and focuses some attention on the chronology of the engaged scenario between Toy and Miss Moon. Toy's proposal included the proposition that they both serve in Japan as missionaries, neutralizing any fear to depart from the mission field as a factor in her decision.

In the year of the Toy controversy (1879), Lottie Moon was reading all the notable works on evolution. This was either at Toy's request or arose from her knowledge of Toy's interest in Darwin. According to an earlier biographer, Una Lawrence, Miss Moon read books recommended by Toy and made notations in the margins. At any rate, she achieved a fairly thorough acquaintance with Darwin and his thought and, in 1888,

was able to call him the "gentlest and wisest of heathens" and commended his support of a Christian mission to Tierra del Fuego.

How could she not be concerned about Toy's theology when Boyce and Broadus were so painfully concerned? She was astute theologically and even wondered, in print, if Southern Baptists had adopted the "New Theology" of secondary probation, since they supported foreign missions so meagerly. As for her, she believed that "after death there are but two places, a heaven of boundless happiness, a hell of endless suffering."

Shall we accuse Miss Moon of theological incompetence or suspect her theological integrity by implying that she had no concern over Toy's theology and that that would have no part in her calling off the engagement.

Compassionate editorial license doubtless prompted your statement that 99 percent of Southern Baptists hold the conservative tenets clearly affirmed by Mr. Ludlow. We would all hope that that is true; but, there are probably 40 percent of these that we can't even find to ask.

Tom J. Nettles, chairman
Department of Church History
Mid-America Seminary
Memphis, Tenn.

I think the point of whether or not Lottie Moon broke her engagement to Crawford Toy over theology is moot since there is no way we can determine the reason other than making guesses as to what is meant in biographical statements. The statement by Catherine Allen, associate executive director of the SBC WMU and the latest of Lottie Moon's biographers, was that all that we know for sure is that she felt that her place was in China. — Editor

"April's the month when the green returns to the lawn, the lilac and the IRS."

— CHANGING TIMES

"The nice thing about teamwork is that you always have others on your side."

MARGARET CARTY

ICC BSU goes to Grand Strand

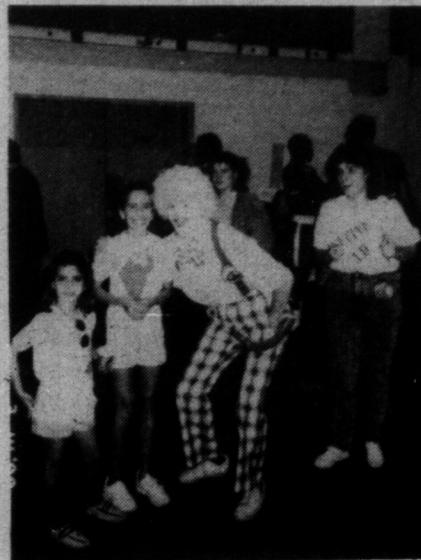
By Wayne Vandiver

Paradise for many would be renting a "condo," hitting the beach, and "soaking up those rays." But how many people would ever think of Myrtle Beach, S.C., as a perfect place to go on a mission trip? Well, the answer is uncertain; but Mark and Christi Hansen, US-2 missionaries to Myrtle Beach, hope that many people will do just that.

Their latest mission team was a fine arts group from the Baptist Student Union at Itawamba Community College in Fulton, which spent its spring break at Myrtle Beach. This team consisted of Tricia Babb, Plantersville; Anna Conlee, Shelly Mills, Angela Staten, all of Pontotoc; Paula Stephens, Mantachie; Susan Peugh, Aberdeen; Angela Wigginton, Darrel Hathcock, Smithville; Quinn Wilson, Andy Wade, Amory; Danny Aldridge, Okolona; Ricky Mitchell, Fulton; and Wayne Vandiver, the ICC BSU director. This team went to Myrtle Beach during their Spring Break which was March 12-19. This was the third mission trip for the ICC BSU since the school year began.

The mission group adopted the name, "Positive I.D." for publicity purposes prior to their arrival. This name appeared in local newspapers and brochures as part of the publicity for the Canadian-American Days Festival, the annual spring break celebration at Myrtle Beach.

The group performed at registration for this festival at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center. They were able to share their faith with nearly 1,000 Canadians and Americans.



Christi Hansen, (Sunshine) and Shelly Mills entertain at the Canadian-American Festival at Myrtle Beach.

Their program consisted of puppets, solos, and lip-sync. They were also able to share individually during breaks in the program.

The team also spent a lot of time helping a mission church by doing door-to-door survey work and passing out brochures. The mission is an intentional start by Ocean View Church, Myrtle Beach. They are meeting in the auditorium of the Myrtle Beach Primary School and are nearing the 100 mark in membership though still in the process of finding a full-time pastor.

Even though the primary responsibility in doing the survey was to get

information for future contacts, the students still had the opportunity to witness. The students were very happy to see some of the people they had contacted in the Wednesday night service which they led. There were about 80 people in attendance.

One morning was spent doing personal evangelism at a fishing pier. They performed at Surf Side, S.C., at the annual Chicken Bog, named for a chicken, rice, and sausage dish served locally.

A final performance at the Myrtle Beach Pavilion was rained out. Since there was no performance, the group decided to "go cruising." One of the stops was a local T-shirt shop.

While in the shop, Darrel Hathcock, the "balloon animal" expert of the group, gave a teddy bear with John 3:16 on it to one of the attendants. She didn't know what the verse said. Another attendant quoted the verse, but added that she didn't go to church. A few minutes later, one of the team members was able to strike up a conversation with this second woman. She shared that she was a "saved, sanctified preacher in the church of God." She had been out of church for a while, but said that she was "on her way back."

She had a lot of problems with "the church," so the ICC BSU'er spent a lot of time sharing with her about the purpose and role of the church in her life. At the end of the conversation, she shared her first name in order to be prayed for by the ICC BSU team.

Wayne Vandiver is BSU director at ICC.



The ICC BSUers traveling to Myrtle Beach included from left front row: Shelly Mills, Tricia Babb, Susan Peugh, Anna Conlee; second row: Quinn Wilson, Angela Wigginton, Angela Staten, Paula Stevens, Danny Aldridge; third row: Andy Wade, Darrel Hathcock, Ricky Mitchell, and Wayne Vandiver.

Senior adults will hold leadership rally at H'burg

Using the theme "New Dimensions for Senior Adult Ministry," South Mississippi senior adults will hold a leadership rally and conference at First Church, Hattiesburg, April 29.

Horace Kerr, manager of the Senior Adult Section at the Baptist Sunday School Board, will bring the opening and closing message of the day. The program will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. with a plenary session at 10 a.m.

Participants will have a choice of two interest conferences from the ten being offered. Among those being presented will be "Better Gardening," Graham Hales, Hattiesburg; "Safety First," Hattiesburg Police Department; "Wood Carving," James Buie, Byram; "Ministering opportunities," Robert Williams, Gautier; "Crisis of Divorce in Family," George F. Lee, Columbia; "New Dimensions in Communication," Farrell Blankenship, Baptist Building; "Leadership in Ministry," Horace Kerr, Nashville; "Travel Opportunities," Barbara Ann Ross, Hattiesburg; "Better Health Through Exercise," Gloria Farmer, Hattiesburg; "Dealing with Grief and Ministry in Sorrow," J. Clark Hensley, Jackson; and Mission Service Corps, C. B. Hamlet, Hattiesburg.

Farrell Blankenship, of the convention board staff, will furnish lunch hour entertainment.

The registration fee of \$4 includes luncheon prepared by First Baptist Church. Reservations for lunch need to be made by noon Monday, April 25. Phone 601-583-2771 or write Joel D. Ray, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS 39401.

Wildwood, Clinton, to hear sermons in Portuguese

Wildwood Church, Clinton, will hear speaking in another tongue soon—not an "unknown tongue," but in Portuguese. Ayde Ferreira Gomes, Brazilian pastor, will be preaching the gospel in his own language while an interpreter, Miss Eneida Thomaz Esteves, also from Brazil, will translate his messages into English. Gomes will be the preacher for a revival at Wildwood Church April 17-22.

The Wildwood pastor, Fred Womack, preached in Gomes's church in Brazil last year, and Miss Esteves was interpreter for him there. Womack went to Brazil with a group of preachers who took part in the Greater Rio Evangelistic Crusade.

Staff changes

Union Church, Roxie, has called as its pastor, John Hudson from Monticello. Hudson was born in West Point. He and his wife, Marion, have nine children, Mary, 19, and David, 13, are the only ones still at home.

Jewell Greer moved from Parkway Church, Kosciusko, to Russell Church,

May 11-20, 1987, under sponsorship of the Foreign Mission Board.

Each night of the Wildwood revival will feature a musical group, duet, or soloist: Lisa Rives Leavell, the Mississippi College Naturals, Bill and Martha Bacon, Richard Joiner, the Ray Norton Quartet, and Libby Walden.

Services on Sunday will be at 10:30 a.m. and at 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., services will begin at 7 p.m. There will be a nursery for babies and toddlers.

In addition to conducting the revival services, Gomes will speak at the Hinds/Madison Pastors' Conference on Monday, April 18, at 10:30 a.m., and at the Mississippi College chapel program on Wednesday, April 20.

Meridian as minister of music and youth.

C. C. Ard has resigned First Church of Louise in Humphrey County and goes to Philipp Church in Tallahatchie County.

Shannon Oakes moved from Parkway Church, Kosciusko, to Faith Church, Starkville, as organist.

Study leaders are announced for senior adults at Gulfshore

Senior Adult Workshop and Bible study leaders for the three Senior Adult Conferences at Gulfshore in May are Gordon H. Sansing, First Church, Vicksburg; Tommy Jarrett, First Church, Macon; and Penrose St. Amant, senior professor of church history, Southern Seminary.

The dates for the conference are May 19-21, May 23-25, and May 26-28. Music leaders for the events are Don McGregor and Irene Martin, Baptist Record; Paul Padgett, and Mrs. Thelma Winborne, Magee; Farley Ernest and Mrs. Dorothy Harrison, First, Brandon, and Art Nelson, Jackson.

The Senior Adult Choirs of First



Jarrett

Sansing

Church, Magee, First Church, Brandon, and First Church, Purvis, and Irene Martin will bring special concerts. The usual seafood special banquet will be served.

Special feature this year on crafts will be taught by Ethel McKeithen, Jackson; James Buie, Byram; and Glen Pearson, Hattiesburg. W. Levon Moore, Kosciusko, and Cortez Hut-

chinson Jr., Yazoo City, will serve as associate directors. Pat Guldridge, Grenada, will bring a special message on May 20.

Out of state program guests are Dewayne Beatty, First Church, Longview, Tex., and Mrs. Mary Lou Williams of McKinney, Tex., both representing senior adult ministry of the Sunday School Board. Other program personalities for the three retreats will include Aubrey L. Boone, Baptist Foundation, Jackson; Barry Worrell, Emmanuel Church, Grenada; Charles Stubblefield, Tishomingo Association; Margaret Hensley, Jackson; Danny Rutland, Golden Gate Seminary; Robert Williams, Gautier; Tom Myers, Prentiss; and Billy G. Johnson, Hattiesburg. The program is sponsored by the Senior Adult Ministry of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — An interfaith coalition of mainstream religious groups have banded together to form a new cable network. Organizers, from Protestant, Jewish, and Roman Catholic faiths, say the Vision Interfaith Satellite Network will take a "positive approach" to religious broadcasting by not raising money on the air and by not centering on any one preacher.



Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



"Memoirs of Uncle Dunc"

With a stretch of her neck and a mournful sigh, she's the queen of the barnyard, and the pride of my eye. Nose pointed outward and mouth open wide, comes a wonderful melody that can't be denied. The music resounds over hill and dell, as she tells the world that all is well . . . Sometimes it is sad, and then it is gay, when a cow bugles her dirge at the close of the day.

Those words from *Memoirs of Uncle Dunc* took me back to the barnyard of my childhood! Sarah Grisham, wife of the Big Level pastor, David Grisham, had sent me the book. I could tell that this Uncle Dunc was somebody I'd like to meet.

Duncan Hatten, retired farmer and dairyman, has lived most of his life near Wiggins in the Big Level community where he was born Feb. 26, 1897. He sees the world with an artist's eyes, but words are the brush with which he paints the sad and the funny. Or he did. He says he doesn't write now. His memoirs were published in 1982 at the time of his 50th wedding

anniversary. And he had written many other rhymes and observations, some of them printed in the *Stone County Enterprise*.

The best thing that ever happened to him? His wife said it was after he had his right eye removed. "It was just before our youngest son was born. We thought my husband might lose the sight in his left eye and might never see the new baby. But that didn't happen."

"No," Duncan differed. "The greatest blessing to me was finding Christ." This occurred after he came home, following service in World War I. "I was stationed at Camp Jackson — where Battlefield Park is now," he remembers. "They asked for eight volunteers to go overseas, and I was one of the eight." In a piece about Armistice Day, he wrote:

The war was over and in the Argonne Forest all was quiet. Dead were scattered everywhere. Great

trees were torn and ragged from artillery shells. Men were standing in groups, in pairs, and sometimes one could see a soldier kneeling beside a fallen buddy. Some were walking, looking, perhaps for a close friend or just dazedly moving around, because to stop and think was too miserable.

He was baptized, he said, at D'Lo, in a pit beside the road. "The water was waist deep, and muddy, and the bottom was slick. I slipped down and knocked the preacher's feet out from under him. And the preacher fell on top of me. I thought we were both going to drown!"

At Big Level Baptist Church, he taught preschool boys in Sunday School, later taught the bigger boys, and then taught a men's class.

The worst thing that ever happened to him, he said, was the heart attack he had 12 years ago. As a result, he has to "stay put" most of the time now. He and his wife, Lillian, live in a trailer by their old Big Level farm house and beside a son's house. All their four children — Lavelle, Winogean, Duncan Ray and Alvah live within a mile of them. (They have eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.)

"I enjoyed farming," he said. "As a boy, I helped to raise hogs and chickens. I used to pick cucumbers all day and drive into Wiggins and sit and wait until midnight to get them unloaded."

The farmer's woes he described: Possums eat up the farmer's eggs; bumblebees get his honey. Fire ants make him shake a leg, and the Co-op gets his money. Old buck eats our purple hulls; raccoons eat our corn. This is gonna be another hard year, shore as you've been born.

He always liked to fish — catfish best — and to hunt — squirrels, rabbits, deer . . . Sometimes he's tried his hand at cooking; his kids liked what they called Pappy Bread. Always he's liked to travel and to meet people. Before he married, he worked



Lillian and Duncan Hatten

SCRAPBOOK

The masterpiece

Your majesty unfolds, Lord,
Before my waking eyes;
The shades of mauve and crimson
You paint on indigo skies.

When I witness the heavenly beauty
You display for mortal man,
I am always completely awestruck
By the artistry of Your hand.

And though You perform such wonders
In the heavens and upon the earth,
The full beauty of Your love for us
Is seen only in the Savior's birth.

You came to dwell among us
And walk throughout the land;
Your overcame every temptation
That we face as carnal man.

And when You saw we couldn't manage
To walk in Your righteous way,

Because You love us dearly
A terrible price You paid.

They led You to Golgotha
And nailed You to the tree;
They did not seem to notice
You were dying for them . . . and me.

But the dark tomb could not hold You
And in glory You were raised;
Because You gave Your life, Lord,
Mankind can now be saved.

Before, I could not appreciate
The wonders of Your hand;
Until I glimpsed Your love for us
Then I began to understand.

So now as I stand here watching,
I see Your beauty in part,
But to view Your perfect Masterpiece
I must see it with my heart.

—Richard Ryan
From Prison 1/23/83

Behind the cross

Creation reflects the Creator's thought.
The array of nature his brilliance wrought.
His breath of purity gave life within.
With love he changed the dust — to men.

As the Master of Wisdom, with outstretched hand
His indwelling peace proclaimed him 'friend.'
Unlocked the heavens to share his might,
Bound by love's redeeming flight.

O wretched man, why does thou fall?
Canst thou not hear the Master's call?
Thy soul is cursed, — a pity's loss.
Thy hope is hid, behind the cross.

With helpless strokes, thou seekest to gain.
Yet death thy future will still remain.
Unconquered mind, untamed thy soul,
The treasure of life the cross doth hold.

Oh, marvel, man, at what thou built.
Take not regard of the blood he spilt.
While thy wandering steps lead thee, lost.
Thy path to heaven lies behind the cross!

—Roger L. Williams
From Prison 1/23/83

Devotional

A more excellent way

By Mary Lee Carraway

"Then the LORD said to him, 'What is that in your hand?' " (Exodus 4:2a). Many years ago when I was a child, Savannah worked for my mother doing housework and tending to my brothers and me. In later years whenever we returned home, she always came to visit "her children."

The last time I saw her was on a hot July day several years ago. She had grown old and frail. No longer able to work, she struggled to survive on a meager Social Security check and food stamps. A friend had given her some ripe figs, and she told me happily of her plans to make preserves. After buying five pounds of sugar for her, I took her home in my car.

Two days later, she came again. In her hand was a gift for me — a pint jar of plump fruit swimming in golden syrup. I was delighted, for I really enjoy fig preserves. "How many jars did you make?" I asked, thinking in terms of dozens. "Three," she answered with pride.

I was stung by her self-denial when I realized that she was offering me nourishment that she badly needed for herself.

"But, Savannah," I chastised her. "You didn't have to bring me one." A smile brightened her dark face. "I didn't do it because I had to, Miss Mary. I did it because I love you."

I never saw Savannah again, but I have never forgotten the lesson of love and generosity and self sacrifice that this aging black woman taught me. How often I had done things, even good things, with a sense of obligation rather than with love, "the more excellent way."

It is a beautiful picture of the amazing grace of Jesus. As I look at the nail prints in his hand, I hear him say, "I didn't do it because I had to, Mary. I did it because I love you."

What has God placed in my hand? I pray that he will teach me to share with others my possessions, my talents, my time, or just a touch motivated by his love.

Mary Lee Carraway is a free-lance writer and a member of First Church, Lucedale.

It looked back at me in a forlorn way and said, "We've had our day. You try to be proud as you hobble along, but how long has it been since you've sung a song? I used to be proud as my wheels clicked along. On ninety pound steel, I, too, had a song. I was pretty important as I hung on behind a hundred car train on the I.C. Line. But now I am stranded, just a flat-wheeled caboose, and try as I might I can't break loose. I am behind the depot on this grassy plot. Just standing room is all I've got, but I'll bet you ain't so far behind with your shaky knees and eyes nearly blind. You try to be gay, but you're no better than I. I'm left here to rot and you to die. But let's don't give up; let's fight to the end, and always remember what we have been. The sun was shining as we had our chat. It waved its flag. I tipped my hat. The sun went under and darkness prevailed. We looked at each other and our courage failed. The caboose seemed to want to be left all alone. I went back to my memories, and to my home."

"Paid in full"

The postman came on time
And filled the box to brim.
The letters were read first,
The others later on.

Among the others was
A statement that contained
A long list of things,
Describing each.

Across the page was marked
In bright red ink
"Paid in full"
And stamped the date.

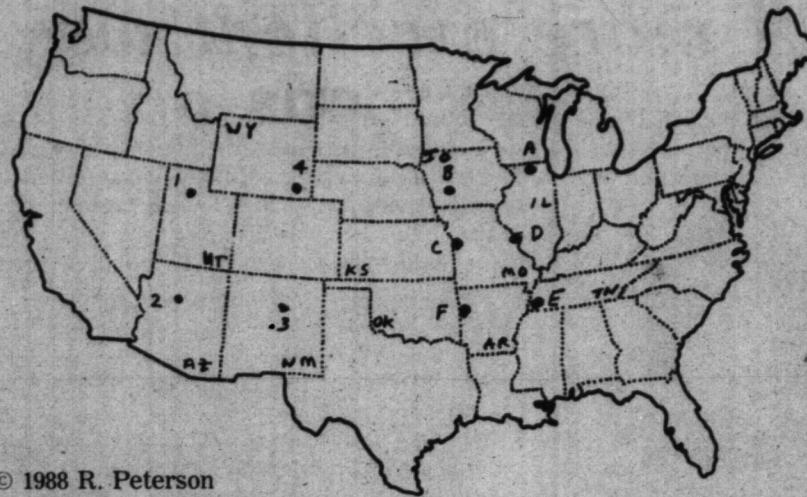
Then, all of a sudden,
Thoughts started coming to me
Of another debt paid in full
Mine, at Calvary.

There Jesus took all of my sins,
A long list of them,
And paid with his own blood.
"It is finished," he said.

When you see a statement
Marked, "Paid in full,"
May the red of that ink
Lead you to Calvary.

—Ruby Singley

CHILDREN'S PAGE



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Map Quiz

Can you identify these cities?

1. The capital of Utah.
2. Lowell Observatory is located in this Arizona City.
3. The capital of New Mexico.
4. The capital of Wyoming.
- A. The second largest city in Illinois (it lies 80 miles northwest of Chicago).
- B. The capital of Iowa.
- C. The second largest city of both Kansas and Missouri.
- D. The largest city in Missouri (it lies on the Mississippi River).
- E. The largest city in Tennessee (also on the Mississippi River).
- F. The second largest city in Arkansas (it is on the Oklahoma border).

Now, starting with 1, connect the dots 1-4. Then starting with A, connect the dots A-F. Can you imagine that the connected dots spell "U.S."?

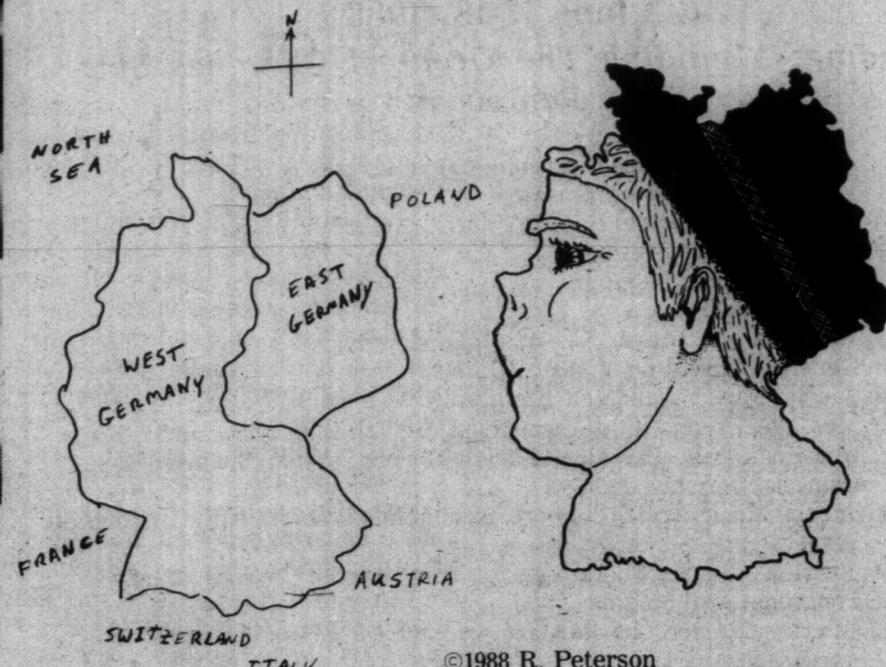
Answers

1. Salt Lake City, UT 2. Flagstaff, AZ 3. Santa Fe, NM 4. Cheyenne, WY A. Rockford, IL B. Des Moines, IA C. Kansas City, MO D. St. Louis, MO E. Memphis, TN F. Fort Smith, AR



Torah study

When public school classes end each day, this Orthodox Jewish boy makes his way to another school, a "cheder," for study of Jewish Scriptures. This year, Israel celebrates its 40th year as a nation. In coming years, Jews who believe in Jesus as Messiah hope to share their message with this boy and all Israelis. (FMB) PHOTO By Joanna Pinneo



© 1988 R. Peterson

Since World War II, Germany has been divided. However, the German people all speak the same language and share a common history.

Can you imagine that the map of Germany looks like a German lad? Color the picture.

Pen Pal Club

I want a Pen Pal

Billy Friley
Rt. 2, Box 87
Vicksburg, MS 39180
Age 9
Wayside Baptist Church

Aryn Keith
550 Quail Hollow Drive
Clinton, MS 39056
Age 8 1/2
I like to play
Morrison Heights Church

Alison Gallaher
104 Hickory Hills Drive
Clinton, MS 39056
Age 9
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
I like to play.

Leslie Self
107 Clinton Blvd.
Clinton, MS 39056
Age 9
Morrison Heights Church
I like to swim.

Jennifer Washburn
Rt. 2, Box 92
McRaven Road
Clinton, MS
Morrison Heights Baptist Church
Age 9
I love to ride horses

Candace Matthews
107 Clinton Blvd.
Clinton, MS 39056
Age 8
I like to ride horses
Morrison Heights Church

Kelly Singletary
1209 Huntcliff Way
Clinton, MS 39056
Morrison Heights Church
I love to swim and to go to choir.
Age 9

Shelly Moore
102 Jill Cove
Clinton, MS 39056
Age 9
I love to sing
Morrison Heights Church

Leslie Ann Holmes
102 Lisa Lane, Clinton, MS 39056
Age 8
I like to swim and skate.
Morrison Heights Church

Lindsay Slay
712 Berkshire St.
Clinton, MS 39056
Morrison Heights Church
I like dancing.
Age 9

Dina McCarty
314 Indian Mound
Clinton, MS 39056
Age 8
Morrison Heights Church
I like to watch TV and I like to read books.

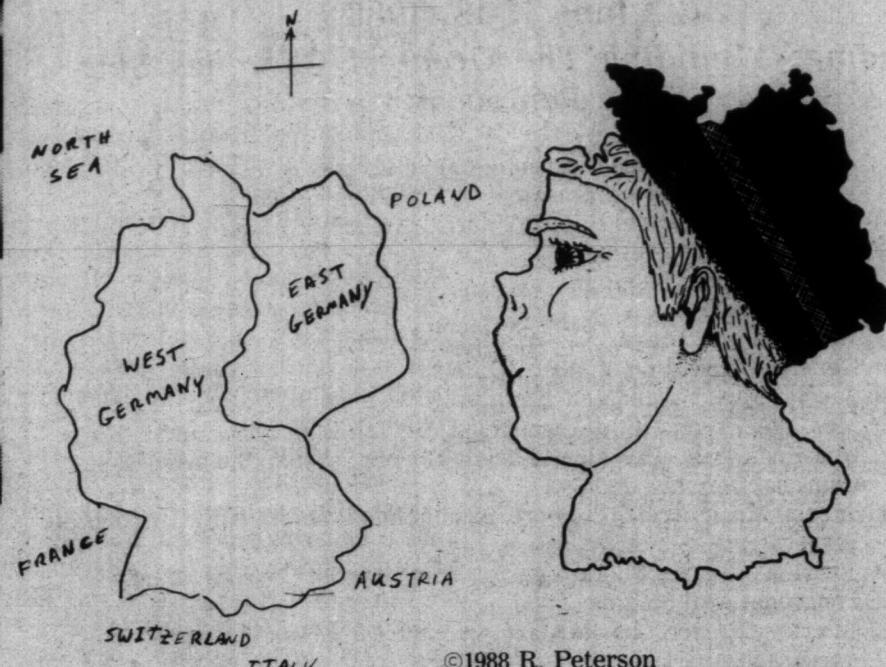
Michelle Combs
P. O. Box 384
Edwards, MS 39066
Age 9
Morrison Heights Church
I like gymnastics.

Laura Lindsey
221 Shadowood Drive, Clinton, MS 39056
Age 10
I like to play and go to GAs.
Morrison Heights Church

Alicia Danielle Yeagley
214 Shadowood Drive
Clinton, MS 39056
I am 8 years old.
I like to watch TV.
Morrison Heights Church

GEOGRAFUN: Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



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The missionary and the girl

By Gordon Heath Bell

Once upon a time lived a man named Tim. He was a missionary. He went all over the world teaching the gospel. One day he came to a little girl. She said, "I would like to have a Bible, please, sir."

Then the man said, "O.K. I will give you the Word of God."

The little girl told the man, "I have been telling everyone about the Word."

The man said, "Where do you go to church?"

The girl said, "I do not go to

Sweet spring rain

By Tara Wood

Sweet spring rain comes falling from the sky,
And when it comes in spring,
It isn't very shy.

Everyone knows who sends it down,
Not mother nature,
But God with the crown.

(Tara Wood, age 10, attends First Church, Verona, Miss.)



Poster winner

Pictured is Claire Dossett of First Church, Jackson, with the Home Mission poster on which her painting of a church appears. The 24 pictures of this poster are the winners chosen from almost 4,000 entries in the "Draw Your Church" coloring contest. Claire, the daughter of Linda and Jimmie Dosssett, was a third grade GA when her teacher, Karen Mumbower and Charlene Bryan, submitted her picture.



SBC Pastors Conference

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Thursday, April 7, 1988

Henry Gonzales Convention Center
San Antonio, Texas
June 12-13, 1988

Theme: "Building The Greatest Churches Since Pentecost"

Sunday Evening, June 12, 1988

Stan Coffey, president — Presiding; pastor,
San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas

6:00 Pre-Conference Music
6:10 Congregational Singing
6:15 Special Music
6:25 Welcome and Prayer, Carlos McLeod, evangelism director, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Dallas
6:30 Special Music, Wanda Jackson, music evangelist, Oklahoma City
6:45 Message, Freddie Gage, evangelist, Go Tell Ministries, Hurst, Texas
7:25 Greetings, SBC President Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn.
7:30 Special Music, Trent Sisemore, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas
7:35 Message, Charles Stanley, pastor, First Baptist Church, Atlanta
8:20 Congregational Singing
8:25 Offertory Prayer, Charlie Martin, pastor, First Baptist Church, Indian Rocks, Largo, Fla.
8:30 Special Music, John McKay, music evangelist, Bailey Smith Ministries, Hurst, Texas
8:35 Message, Bailey Smith, evangelist, Atlanta
Benediction, Nick Garland, pastor, First Baptist Church, Broken Arrow, Okla.

Monday Morning, June 13

Gerald Davidson, vice president — Presiding;
pastor, First Baptist Church, Arnold, Mo.

8:30 Pre-Conference Music
8:45 Scripture and Prayer, Wallace Edgar, pastor, Trinity Road Baptist Church, Texarkana, Ark.
8:50 Congregational Singing
8:55 Special Music
9:05 Message, Ron Herrod, pastor, First Baptist Church, Fort Smith, Ark.
9:30 Congregational Singing
9:35 Special Music
9:45 Message, Ronnie Floyd, pastor, First Baptist Church, Springdale, Ark.
10:15 Congregational Singing
10:20 Offertory Prayer, Jim Prock, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Chandler, Ariz.
Offering
10:30 Special Music
10:35 Message, Paige Patterson, president, Criswell Center for Biblical Studies, Dallas
11:05 Congregational Singing
11:10 Special Music, Mike Speck, music evangelist, Owasso, Okla.

11:15 Message, Morris Chapman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Wichita Falls, Texas
11:45 Benediction, Rod Masteller, pastor, Putnam City Baptist Church, Oklahoma City

Monday Afternoon, June 13

Stan Coffey, Presiding

1:20 Pre-Conference Music
1:30 Congregational Singing
1:35 Scripture and Prayer, Gerald Harris, pastor, Colonial Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
1:40 Special Music, Jack Price, music evangelist, Dallas
1:45 Message, Richard Lee, pastor, Rehoboth Baptist Church, Tucker, Ga.
2:10 Congregational Music
2:15 Special Music, Alan Celoria and Celoria Family Singers, music evangelists, Smithdale, Miss.
2:20 Message, Tom Elliff, pastor, First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla.
2:50 Offertory Prayer, Claude Thomas, Council Road Baptist Church, Bethany, Okla.
Offering
3:00 Election of Officers
3:15 Congregational Singing
3:20 Special Music, Jim Bob Griffin Family, music evangelists, Rusk, Texas
3:25 Message, Bobby Boyles, pastor, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.
3:55 Congregational Singing
4:00 Special Music, Jack Price
4:05 Message, Jay Strack, evangelist, Dallas
4:35 Benediction, Dennis Sewell, pastor, Highland Baptist Church, Laurel, Miss.

Monday Evening, June 13

Stan Coffey, Presiding

6:15 Pre-Conference Music
6:30 Congregational Singing
6:35 Scripture and Prayer
6:40 Special Music
6:50 Message, Ed Young, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
7:20 Congregational Singing
7:25 Offertory Prayer, Sid Peterson, pastor, Stine Road Baptist Church, Bakersfield, Calif.
Offering
7:35 Special Music
7:40 Message, W.A. Criswell, pastor, First Baptist Church, Dallas
8:25 Congregational Singing
8:30 Special Music
8:35 Message, Jerry Vines, co-pastor, First Baptist Church, Jacksonville, Fla.
Introduction of New Pastors' Conference Officers
Benediction - Newly elected Pastors' Conference President Officers
Stan Coffey, president; pastor, San Jacinto Baptist Church, Amarillo, Texas
Gerald Davidson, vice president; pastor, First Baptist Church, Arnold, Mo.
Don Deel, secretary-treasurer; pastor, Eastlake Baptist Church, Merrillville, Ind.
Jack Price, music leader; music evangelist, Dallas

DOMs will focus on excellence

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Associational directors of missions from across the Southern Baptist Convention will focus on excellence in leadership when they convene for their annual meeting here June 12-13.

"Committed to Excellence" will be the theme for the 27th annual meeting of the SBC Directors of Missions Conference, to be held at La Mansion del Norte Hotel immediately prior to the SBC annual meeting.

"We're going to talk about the director of missions as a leader and commitment to excellence in his leadership," said conference President Carl Duck, executive director of Nashville Baptist Association.

The convention has about 1,200 associations, whose work is coordinated by about 800 directors of missions.

Highlights of the conference will include two keynote addresses, Duck said: "The Association Committed to Excellence," by Robert E. Wiley, director of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board's associational missions division from Atlanta, and "The Director of Missions — A Model for Excellence in Leadership," by Walter Shurden, a church historian and dean of Mercer University's department of Christianity from Macon, Ga. Duck's president's address also will emphasize the theme. The conference also will include two Bible studies by Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth. Four directors of missions — Bill Tinsley of Denton, Texas; Russell Bennett of Louisville, Ky.; Albert Creel of Madisonville, Tenn.; and Gerald Blackburn of Mobile, Ala., will each present reports on applications of the theme to specific associational ministries.

Pastors' theme: "Building great churches"

By Dan Martin

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — "Building the Greatest Churches Since Pentecost" will be the theme of the 1988 Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference June 12-13 in the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center here.

The Pastors' Conference is one of several meetings that precede the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, scheduled this year June 14-16, also in San Antonio.

Stan Coffey, president of the Pastors' Conference and pastor of San Jacinto Church, Amarillo, said: "It has been some time since the program of the Pastors' Conference has emphasized church growth.

We have had programs on doctrine, but in my own ministry, I have always tried to emphasize the practical."

Coffey said he believes "We are in the greatest days for church growth since the Book of Acts. I am hoping our program will encourage us, particularly at a time when we have had some discouraging news about baptism.

I hope the program will encourage

us to know God is still on the throne and he is still going to use Southern Baptists to build local, New Testament, Bible believing churches."

Each of the invited speakers "is outstanding in some aspect of church growth," he said. "I have asked them to include in their messages what they feel in their own ministry is the strength and key to growing their own church."

The Pastors' Conference program features addresses by three former presidents of the Southern Baptist Convention: Charles Stanley, pastor of First Church, Atlanta; Bailey Smith, now an Atlanta-based evangelist; and W.A. Criswell, pastor of First Church, Dallas. It also features a greeting from current SBC President Adrian P. Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis.

Also to address the conference will be Paige Patterson, president of Criswell College of Dallas.

Two men frequently mentioned as possible conservative nominees for the SBC presidency also are featured

preachers: Ed Young, pastor of Second Church, Houston, will speak in the Monday night session, and Jerry Vines, co-pastor of First Church, Jacksonville, will deliver the concluding address.

Coffey said he has not specifically instructed speakers to keep away from convention politics, "but I trust the integrity of these men (the speakers). I have told them I want them to encourage the pastors and to give them the tools to build great churches."

The Pastors' Conference president said he "would like for this not to be perceived as political, but realistically I know some will see it that way."

I regret they will, but I have had to come to a peace a long time ago with what I was trying to do to serve the Lord, both in my own church and in the SBC.

"He (Vines) was the first one I invited and one of the reasons was the tremendous message he brought in the convention sermon (in 1987). I invited him before it was ever announced

ed he might be a candidate. In fact, because the convention was in Texas, I thought he probably would not be a nominee, that someone else would be." Vines will be the closing speaker.

Other speakers include Freddie Gage, a Hurst, Texas, evangelist; Jay Strack, a Dallas evangelist; Morris Chapman, former Pastors' Conference president and pastor of First Church, Wichita Falls; Ron Herrod, pastor of First Church, Fort Smith, Ark.; Tom Elliff, pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla.; and Richard Lee, pastor of Rehoboth Church of Tucker, Ga. Two newcomers, Coffey said, are Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church, of Springdale, Ark., who "has a strong emphasis on the Sunday School in building a great church," and Bobby Boyles, pastor of First Church, Moore, Okla., who had "tremendous success in building a country church" near Burleson, Texas, before recently moving to Oklahoma.

Current Mississippians on the program include Alan Celoria of

Smithdale who will sing with his family, Gerald Harris, pastor of Colonial Heights Church, Jackson, who will pray and read scripture, and Dennis Sewell, pastor of Highland Church, Laurel, who will pray.

Music for the Pastors' Conference will be coordinated by music evangelist Jack Price of Dallas. Officers include Coffey, president; Gerald Davidson, pastor of First Church, Arnold, Mo., vice president; and Don Deel, pastor of Eastlake Church, Merrillville, Ind., secretary-treasurer.



WMU associational officers will gather at Garaywa

"A Future to Fulfill . . . Launching Century 2" is the theme for two identical training workshops offered for all WMU associational officers, April 28-29 and April 29-30 at Camp Garaywa, Clinton. Associational officers can attend the Thursday night-Friday noon workshop or the Friday night-Saturday noon conference.

Registration for both workshops begins at 4 p.m. with supper at six. The evening session, beginning at 7, will feature testimonies about new WMU units begun through the Bold New Growth — Mississippi emphasis.

Winston County Baptist Association prepares to celebrate 150th birthday

Churches of Winston County Baptist Association are preparing to celebrate on April 17 the 150th anniversary of the association.

At 5 p.m., in the lower auditorium of First Church, Louisville, a reception will honor the guest speaker, Herschel Hobbs of Oklahoma City, Okla. Hobbs, a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, held pastorates in Alabama, Indiana, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. He was Baptist Hour pastor for many years and as such was heard over more than 400 radio stations weekly. He is author of 121 books and was editor of *The Baptist Faith and Message*. Mrs. Monica Cockrell, associational WMU director, is in charge of the reception.

The celebration service will begin

Clarksdale Church will offer Master Life Workshop two weekends

A special schedule is being used for the MasterLife Workshop to be conducted at Clarksdale Church May 19-21 and May 26-28. This is being offered on a split weekend time-frame Thursday evening, Friday evening, all day Saturday. Persons attending will be required to attend both weekends to be certified in MasterLife as a group leader and to be able to purchase the materials to conduct a group.

The advantage of the split weekend schedule is that bivocational church staff persons as well as laypersons may attend without being away from work an entire week.

Larry Goff, Edon Church, in Jasper Association will be a leader for the workshop. Larry is a certified coleader having conducted more than 25

Carey plans Prospective Student Day

The red carpet will be rolled out at William Carey College on April 15 when prospective students are invited to visit the campus.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Visitors will have an opportunity to tour the campus, visit with current

Following the general session, conferences will be offered for all age-level directors. Leaders for these conferences include Marjean Patterson, Rita Land, Ashley McCaleb, Monica Keathley, Jan Cossitt, Maudine Dudley, and Trish Simmons.

A "WMU Spree (Fair)" will be held following the evening conferences. The Spree will feature "Show and Tell" displays by associations on subjects such as: world hunger, Big A Club, WMU Centennial, literacy, day camp, and Acteens Activators.

at 7 p.m. in First, Louisville's auditorium with Hobbs to deliver the main address. A program of music has been planned by Tim Horton, pastor of Mars Hill Church and associational music director. He will present an "Ole Harp" group to sing in chorus, reminiscent of 150 years ago. Also a song will be sung, written especially for associational anniversaries.

Former directors of missions of the association, still living, are N. G. Hickman, W. B. Boatner, Hollis Bryant, and R. A. Herrington. Jerry W. Stevens is the present DOM. Boatner, Bryant, and Herrington will be on program. Herrington, pastor of Winston Church, and a member of the Sesquicentennial Committee, will give a brief history of the association.

Others on the committee are Mary Lynn Holmon, Mrs. Louise Hill Miller, Mrs. Juanita Hight, chairman, and Jerry W. Stevens, ex officio.

A church history cookbook is being

published and will be on sale for \$5. Also Baptist churches throughout the county are making a sesquicentennial quilt. It has an embroidered outline of each of the churches, the name of each church, and the year each was organized. The quilt will be presented to the association, to hang at the association building.

Long-stemmed yellow roses are to be used for decoration, each a gift in memory of some person from Winston's Association's past.

Winston County Baptist Association was organized as Louisville Association in 1838. In 1850, the name was changed from Louisville Friendship to Louisville Association. In 1846, the year after the Southern Baptist Convention was formed, the association identified itself with the work of the SBC. In 1848, a resolution declared the association a member of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Today the association has 28 churches.

Blue Mountain ministerial alumni to meet April 29

Blue Mountain Ministerial Alumni will be having their annual meeting April 29. Brian Harbour from Immanuel Church, Little Rock, Ark., will be guest speaker. Also the alumni will be discussing the possibility of building a new dorm for the ministerial students.

The meeting will close with a golf tournament at the Pine Hills Country Club. The meeting will start at 9:30 a.m. with coffee and doughnuts.

Glen R. Putman is BMC ministerial alumni president.

Revival results

Zion Hill, Wesson: March 6-10; 16 professions of faith, two additions by letter; Jeff Steele, Richland Baptist Church, Richland, evangelist; J. Frank Smith, pastor.

First, Lauderdale: March 13-16; 13 professions of faith, 3 by letter, 3 baptisms, and other decisions; Gary Bowlin, evangelist; Bruce Bishop, music; Mike Russell, pastor.



First, Sumner dedicates organ

First Church, Sumner, dedicated a new Rogers 770 Exeter organ on March 20. Billy Jernberg, M.D., from Dallas, Texas, gave a mini-recital and played the organ for the congregational singing. Also the program included solos by Mrs. Peter Jernberg, organ presentation by Mrs. Billy Joe Williams, and acceptance and dedication of the organ by the pastor, Millard Caulder. A reception followed the service, provided by women of the church.

W. E. Prout, minister and educator, dies

Funeral services for William Ennis Prout, minister and educator, were held, March 8, 1988, from Gunter and Peel Chapel in Columbus. Officiating at the services were Bobby Douglas, pastor of First Baptist Church, Columbus, and Tommy Jarrett, pastor of First Baptist Church, Macon.

Prout, pastor of Elon Baptist Church and at one time interim pastor of Macon's First Church, died March 7 at Columbus Hospital. He was 66.

Born February 24, 1922, in Tupelo, he received the BS degree from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. He was ordained to the ministry in 1941, and attended Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, where he earned three degrees, including the Ph.D. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Columbus.

Between 1949-1965, he pastored churches in Mississippi and Alabama. His interest in education led him into teaching at Union University, Mississippi Baptist Seminary, and finally, as dean-teacher of Mound Bayou Seminary Center which he was instrumental in establishing.

In 1965, he accepted a professorship in the history department of M.S.C.W. (now MUW) retiring in 1984.

Prout was coordinator of the Plymouth Bluff Nature and Cultural Center, curator of Rare Books and Documents, Fine Arts Committee, Judicial Committee at the "W", and had published several documentaries concerning the Black Belt area. He was, in addition to a writer, an artist, whose works have been shown.

In 1943, he married Virginia Reese, who survives him. He leaves a son, W. E. (Bill) Prout, Jr. of Columbus; a daughter, Ruth Prout Coleman of Overland Park, Kansas; his mother, of Columbus; and two grandchildren.

Memorial services were held at Elon Church Wednesday evening also.

Churches gather for Seder

Members of Baptist churches in Choctaw and Webster Association gathered at Chester Church, for a Seder Supper. The Seder, commemorating the Jewish Passover, was conducted by Martin Colein, pastor of Fellowship Church, Mathiston.

He went to high school in the Jewish High School in Maryland and was confirmed into the Jewish Faith at age 13.

Colein read a copy of Hal Lindsay's book "The Late Great Planet Earth" while in college at Salisbury State College, in Maryland. After reading the book he knelt beside his bed in the dorm and gave his life to Jesus Christ.

After graduation from New Orleans Seminary, he became pastor of Fellowship.

The Seder, or Jewish Christian Passover, sees Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning the Messiah.

Goodwater to mark centennial

Goodwater Church, Magee, will celebrate its 100th anniversary April 24. Regular Sunday morning services will be at 11 with Harold Harris as speaker. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall, followed by afternoon services at 1:30.

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Citizenship is the centerpiece

By Stan Haste

WASHINGTON (BP) — Dual citizenship — in the nation and in God's Kingdom — were the centerpiece around which principal speakers revolved during the annual Christian Life Commission seminar here.

CLC Executive Director N. Larry Baker told more than 250 participants the seminar on Christian citizenship was convened "because we take our roles as citizens of this nation . . . (and) our roles as citizens of God's kingdom seriously."

Biblical faith, Baker said, "calls changed people to change the world in and through the structures of government . . . to establish that which is right in the republic and boldly to challenge that which is wrong . . . to act constructively and wisely, consistently and urgently upon the basis of accurately informed consciences . . . to exert a Christian influence within the nation through individual commitment to and personal involvement in citizen action . . . (and) to place on the national agenda issues which others would prefer to avoid."

Biblical scholar and Samford University Provost William E. Hull issued a challenge that Christians help reverse "an erosion of concern for public welfare," a concept captured by the Latin word "civitas."

"Clearly the recovery of civitas is our highest priority on the nation's agenda," Hull said. He related his involvement in civic affairs while serving as pastor of First Church, Shreveport, from 1975 to 1987, and said civic responsibility "is best embodied in localized expressions."

"Mass media exhortations to feel good about America again" are not enough to "instill a fresh sense of patriotism in our citizenry," he said.

Instead, "a new sense of public responsibility will not be handed down by a few charismatic leaders from above but must be built up by the people from below."

Roger L. Shinn, emeritus professor of social ethics at Union Theological Seminary in New York, said there is "an important distinction between religious conviction and public policy."

At the same time, Shinn added: "We cannot isolate the one from the other."

Religious faith cannot neglect the common good. It is bound to influence the politics of believers.

"Yet there is a difference between religious belief and public policy."

Caesar is not God — not when Caesar is some external authority, and not when we are Caesar. We must not identify God with our nation or our political cause."

Sounding a similar note, Kansas State University history Professor Robert D. Linder warned of the pitfalls of embracing a civil religion that mixes piety and patriotism until the two cannot be distinguished.

Linder, an active Baptist layman, said: "The main danger of civil religion in America today is that it identifies God with the national destiny and, in essence, reduces the universal God of the Bible to the tribal

god of a particular nation.

"Civil religionists often appropriate God for national ends and purposes, and increasingly in recent times they have not asked God to judge the nation, but to bless its agenda."

In a separate address on religion and the presidency, Linder said President Reagan "has been the most astute practitioner of civil religion to occupy the White House in the 20th century."

Another speaker, Vernon C. Grounds, called for a rejection of dispensational premillennialism's emphasis on the end of time to the exclusion of concern for the here and now. Grounds, a Conservative Baptist who is president of Evangelicals for Social Action, said popular eschatologists such as Hal Lindsey are actually "pessimists, determinists, and fatalists" who believe it a "sheer waste of time" to engage in social action.

Such a view betrays a basic misunderstanding of the nature of biblical prophecy, Grounds said. Old Testament prophets were not "secular soothsayers" but were called "to tell forth God's truth," including God's "ethical demands," he said.

Federal appeals court Judge Jean Galloway Bissell appealed for an appropriate commemoration of the

200th anniversary of the U.S. Constitution, calling it "America's proudest and most enduring achievement." Bissell warned, however, that because the Constitution has worked so well, "the danger today is that the Constitution's protections so permeate the ordinary events of our everyday living as to be easily taken for granted."

Rep. Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., said discussions of ethics and elected officials should include the difference between sainthood and corruption: "You are never going to have an ethical House (of Representatives) if your standard is sainthood and above. You can have an ethical House if your standard is corruption and below."

Gingrich attributed contemporary ethical confusion in large measure to rapid change and situation ethics. "The values of the permissive society and the collapse of absolutes, I think, led to a decay of behavior that will haunt us for at least two more generations," he said. "Once a society gets into this kind of a morass, it doesn't get out of it quickly."

Speaking on national budget priorities, Delegate Walter E. Fauntroy, D-D.C., said the country is faced with the challenge of changing public policies that have resulted in enormous foreign trade and domestic budget deficits. "If we don't do something about changing that package of public policies," he said, "the future of our nation's young will be that of living on a vast plantation called America, owned by foreign investors and as high as a kite on drugs."

Two other speakers personalized the human face of hunger, homelessness and other needs.

Stan Haste is on the staff of the Baptist Joint Committee.

Thursday, April 7, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11

Names in the news



OKLAHOMA CITY (BP) — Sarah Zimmerman, 26, a 1983 graduate of Oklahoma Baptist University, has been named assistant editor of the *Baptist Messenger*, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma.

RALEIGH, N.C. (BP) — W. Randall Lolley, the third president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C., will be recommended to be the next pastor of First Church, Raleigh. All of his ministry has been in the pastorate except the 14 years at Southeastern.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Kenneth L. Chafin has accepted the call as pastor of Walnut Street Church here. Chafin, 61, has been Carl E. Bates professor of Christian preaching at Southern Seminary since 1984.

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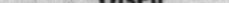
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Soloists include Rick Hamm, Betty Pace, and Joey Harrington.

Forest Hill Church, Jackson, will honor its new pastor, James B. Alford, and wife, Judy, son, Chad, and daughter, Misty, with a reception on Sunday, April 10 from 2-4 p.m. in the activity building at 115 Maddox Road, Jackson.

Senior Adult Corner



The Golden Ages, the senior citizens group of Harmony Church, New Albany, visited Chattanooga, Tenn. in the fall. Pictured at Point Park, Lookout Mountain, are front row, left to right Hazel Beard, Virgie Jackson, Ruth Crain, Elaine Keenum, and Robert L. Daniel, pastor and driver. Second row, Virginia Freeman, Velma Tate, Marguerita Baggett, Fay Davis, Lavell Beard, Alene Orman, and Martha Metts. Third row, Myrtis Robins, Qbelle Nolley, Elaine Hale, Mary Gray, Juanita Murphree, and Barbara Daniel. Fourth row, Bruce Gray, Chesley Hale, Opel Cobb, and Veta Whisenent.



Book reviews

THE TALE OF THE RING: A KADDISH by Frank Stiffel (Bantam Books, paper, 348 pp., \$9.95) This book was winner of the Editor's Book Award by Pushcart Press for a manuscript of high literary value and lasting significance. It is one man's brilliantly written story of the

triumph of love over the horrors of the holocaust.

In 1939 Frank Stiffel was a young Jewish student with a medical degree and hopes of a literary career. Then the Nazis closed in on him and his family in Poland. His parents died in gas chambers. Stiffel lived through

McBETH, H. LEON. THE BAPTIST HERITAGE: FOUR CENTURIES OF BAPTIST WITNESS. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1987.

Leon McBETH, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary, has produced the most inclusive, up-to-date history of Baptists in print.

McBETH's work divides Baptist history into four units, one for each century from the 17th through the twentieth. Each unit covers British Baptists first, and then Baptists in America. In America, greater attention is given to Southern Baptists and Northern Baptists; but space is also given to National Baptists, Primitive Baptists, Missionary Baptists, Free-Will Baptists, and other small denominations as well as Hispanic and other ethnic Baptists. European Baptists are discussed, but no attention is given to Baptists outside of Western culture.

McBETH concurs with the prevailing view of Baptist historians that Baptists originated from the English Puritans, and he ignores the older but vanishing view which sought to connect them to European Anabaptists such as the Mennonites. McBETH has a Southern Baptist slant to his work. While admitting that "slavery was the final and most decisive factor" in the 1845 split with Northern Baptists (p. 381), he also mentions the other factors. McBETH does not discuss the current controversy in the SBC, which is a history still in the making.

Despite its large size (822 pages), McBETH's book is written in a conversational style and has a clear typeset, making it readable for the layman as well as the professor. It is already being used as a seminary textbook, and is a must buy for anyone interested in Baptist history. — Reviewed by Bob Rogers, pastor, Calvary Church, Gloster.

Northeast Mississippi Senior Adults will meet at Sherman Church, May 5. Charles Stubblefield, Tishomingo, and J. Clark Hensley, Jackson, will serve as resource persons. Registration fee of \$2 includes lunch. Make reservations for lunch through William P. Smith, Lee Baptist Association, Box 133, Tupelo, MS 38802, or phone 842-8164 by April 25.

Rankin County Golden Agers will meet at Meadow Grove Church, Brandon, April 20 at 10 a.m. Miss Ethel McKeithen, Jackson, and Cortez Hutchinson, Yazoo City, senior adult area consultants for senior adult ministry, M3CB, will present the program. Lunch will be served by the host church.

Senior Adult Day in Mississippi Baptist churches is recommended this year to be May 1.

Pastors' conference, forum still estranged

By Dan Martin and Bob Terry

for us to comply with the Peace Committee's adopted recommendation that we get together and explore possibilities."

Steincross asked Coffey if the Pastors' Conference officers would be willing to meet with the Forum steering committee and explore ways of reuniting the two groups. He said Coffey did not reply to the letter.

When the Forum steering committee met Feb. 1, the group decided to make a third attempt at possible reconciliation, Steincross said. "Coffey's lack of response left us with no choice but to plan a separate meeting for 1988," he said. "But we did not want to give up on the future."

Steincross said he and other Forum steering committee members were disappointed at the lack of response by the Pastors' Conference.

"We want Southern Baptists to know we have tried to comply with Peace Committee Recommendation 9 and stand ready to try again. However, the recommendation places responsibility on both parties."

Coffey told Baptist Press he has invited the Forum to "come back" to the Pastors' Conference, "but they have placed conditions on their coming back."

Davidson said he had talked with Coffey about the program of the upcoming Pastors' Conference, but they did not talk about meeting with the Forum.

Dan Martin is BP news editor; Bob Terry is editor, Missouri WORD and WAY.



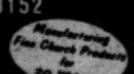
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Coffey's letter noted the merger of the two groups was already in progress, since attendance at the SBC Forum declined at the St. Louis meeting.

Coffey told Baptist Press: "My position is that the Pastors' Conference was founded in 1935 and, until recent years, was the only meeting for pastors prior to the convention. I just invited the Forum to rejoin the Pastors' Conference. They are the group which left and are welcome to come back and be part of the Pastors' Conference."

Steincross' second letter, dated Nov. 6, said: "It appears that you have misunderstood the intent of my letter of August 18. My letter was not requesting permission to 'come back' to the Pastors' Conference. Rather it was

Shakespeare Festival

Madrigal Singers will perform

The Mississippi College Department of Music will present the Madrigal singers in a dinner performance on Thursday and Friday, April 21 and 22, as part of the week-long Shakespeare Festival on campus.

Cost for the evening of food and fun will be \$10 for adults and \$9 for students. The program each evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Aven Fine Arts Auditorium.

The meal will be served in tradi-

tional banquet style of the Shakespearean era, with strolling minstrels and a jester. It will also feature food of the period.

Following the meal, the Mississippi College theatre department will present a scene from Shakespeare's *Macbeth* and then the Madrigal Singers will present their concert.

This will be the 11th year for the Mississippi College Shakespeare Festival, a program endowed by Mr. and Mrs. George E. Pittman of Clin-

ton. Mr. Pittman is a 1923 graduate of Mississippi College.

Ticket reservations for the dinner and Madrigal concert can be made by calling 925-3230 or by sending check or money order to Madrigal Dinner, Mississippi College Music Department, P. O. Box 4206, Clinton, MS 39058.

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Just for the Record



A ground breaking service was conducted at Lizana Church, Gulfport, Feb. 21. Bobby Perry, director of missions, Gulf Coast Association, delivered the message and led in the ground breaking service for the 5,000 sq. ft. education building. Lizana was constituted as a church March 27, 1983.

The building planning committee from left are Linda Jacobs; Frances Comeaux; Pat Vierling; Gerald H. Walker, pastor; Lamar Bond; Harold Jacobs, chairman; Earl Cuevas; Jeff Ware; Bobby Perry; and Robert "Red" Bowen.

Lynn Ray Road Church, Petal, had its special Easter musical presentation by the combined choirs, April 3, titled "A Path to Calvary" under the direction of Dianne Boone.

Bill Partridge and Emmett Boone are the pastors.

Mississippi Baptist Medical Center's clinical laboratory in Jackson will celebrate National Medical Laboratory Week (April 10-16) with an open house for the public Tuesday, April 12, from 2 until 4 p.m. The event salutes the work of the medical laboratory professionals who comprise the health care community's third largest segment. This year's theme, "Our Knowledge, Skills and

Dedication — For Your Good Health," was chosen to increase public awareness of how the work done in the laboratory relates to the health of patients. Physicians depend upon laboratory test results to confirm the diagnosis and prescribe appropriate treatment.

The Adult Choir of Woolmarket Church, Biloxi, presented "Jesus Shall Reign," March 27. Steve White, minister of music and youth was the director. Beverly Williams supervised scenery production, and full costumes were worn. "The death and resurrection of Jesus was brought to life before the eyes of a full church, and it was done beautifully," said M. L. Faler, pastor.

Revival dates

Four Mile Creek, Hwy 613, Escatawpa: April 11-15; 7 nightly; April 12-15, 10:30 a.m.; Don Savell, Philadelphia, evangelist; Bill Britton, Vicksburg, music; Kenneth Goff, pastor.

Kirkville (Itawamba): April 10-15; Sunday; 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7; Jack Maroon, pastor, First, Belmont, speaker; Hulon Chaney, pastor.

Briar Hill, Hwy 469 North, Florence: April 10-14; Sunday, 11 a.m., followed by noon meal, and 7:15 p.m.; Mon. Thurs., 10:30 a.m. and 7:15 p.m.; Ed Griffin, First, Ridgeland, evangelist; Gene Hubbard, music; Wilson Winstead, pastor.

Second, Indianola: April 10-14; services, noon and 7 p.m.; covered dish meal following Sunday morning service and lunch will be provided at the noon services during the week; Jim Yates, First, Yazoo City, evangelist; Kathryn Barfield, First, Yazoo City, music evangelist; Earl Budlove, pastor.

First, Macon: April 10-13; Ken Alford, Morrison Heights, Clinton, guest speaker; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 12 noon and 7 p.m.; Mark Calkins, minister of music, First, Macon, music; Tommy Jarrett, pastor.

Woolmarket, Biloxi: April 10-14; W. D. "Step" Martin, Calvary, Shreveport, La., evangelist; Don Balltzglier Family from Griffin, Ga., music evangelists; services, Sunday 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.; nightly at 7; M. L. Faler, pastor.

Bissell, Tupelo: youth revival, April 15, 16, and 17; services, 7 each evening and 11 on the 17; Baptist Student Union from Itawamba Community College, Fulton, in charge of services; Brad Murphy, youth director; Adron Horne, pastor.

Chunky, Chunky: April 10-13; Marty Romero, pastor, Montrose, preaching; Bob Strebeck, music; services, 11 a.m. Sunday and 7 each evening; Wayne Campbell, pastor.

Swiftwater, Greenville: April 10-15; Sunday services, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 12 noon and 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Doggett, Macedonia, Petal, evangelist; Glenn Davis, First, Sumrall, music; Alva Ray McCorkle, pastor.

Center Terrace, Canton: April 10-15; James Brannon, Highland, Meridian, evangelist; Kenny Adams, First, Bruce, leading the music; J. C. Prather, pastor; services at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Sun.; 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Trace Ridge Church, 138 East Lake Harbour Drive, Ridgeland will celebrate its 10th anniversary on Sunday, April 24, 9:45 a.m.

The theme is "Hats off to the past, coats off to the future." Special music will be provided by the Sonrise Quartet of Philadelphia.

Dinner on the grounds will be served. Jerry Odom is pastor.



Temple Church, Jackson, recently ordained Ricky Clyde Sandridge (center) as deacon. Sandridge, a native of Kosciusko, is married to the former Stephanie Belk. Barney Walker, (left) 93, is the former pastor of Temple Church. James Watts (right) is pastor.



Lyon Church, Lyon, recently ordained two men as deacons. Pictured, they are Bobby Pounds (left) and J. E. Weeks (right). Randolph C. Lindsay is pastor.

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Thursday, April 7, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

Mississippi Baptist activities

April 11	State Bible Drill; FBC, Biloxi; 3-4:30 p.m. (CT)
April 11-12	Secretaries Conference; Camp Garaywa; 1 p.m., 11th-4 p.m., 12th (CAPM)
April 12	State Bible Drill; FBC, Hattiesburg; 3-4:30 p.m. (CT)
April 14	State Bible Drill; Harrisburg BC, Tupelo/Calvary BC, Tupelo; 3-4:30 p.m. (CT)
April 15	State Bible Drill; FBC, Starkville; 3-4:30 p.m. (CT)
April 15-16	Area Handbell Festival-South; FBC, Biloxi; 7 p.m., 15th-2:30 p.m., 16th (CM)
April 15-16	GA Mother/Daughter Overnight; Camp Garaywa; 4 p.m., 15th-12:30 p.m., 16th (WMU)
April 16	State Bible Drill; Colonial Heights BC, Jackson/Alta Woods BC, Jackson; 1:30-3 p.m. (CT)
	Mississippi Baptists in Broadcasting; Calvary BC, Jackson; 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m. (DBS)

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Futility of excuses: God not obliged to accept them

By M. Dean Register

Excuse making is an old business that perpetrates itself in new ways. Most of us are familiar with this ancient practice because we have engaged in it so frequently.

At the heart of an excuse is an attempt at self-justification. The Bible indicates, however, that no person has an excuse for failing to respond to God's plan and purpose for life. The dictionary defines an excuse as an explanation of an omission or a fault. In the course of daily relationships we offer excuses and often accept them from others. But in the matter of our relationship with God, no excuse can be offered that God is obliged to accept. In Rom. 1:20 and 2:1 Paul explains that mankind is "without excuse" and he offers several reasons for this inescapable dilemma.

One reason is that God's wrath abides upon the sinfulness of humanity. Paul says, "the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men



Register

who hold the truth in unrighteousness." (Rom. 1:18) The Gospel reveals both God's salvation and his wrath. God's wrath is not capricious anger, but a settled, personal, consistent resistance and reaction toward sin. A popular, though erroneous concept of wrath is one of a vindictive creator hurling bolts of calamity upon innocent people. The truth is, God's wrath is firm but never maliciously vindictive. His wrath is analogous to a loving father who warns his children about specific dangers. The father is set against the dangers and so he admonishes the children that if they disobey they will incur the penalty of chastisement as well as the resultant consequence of the dangers. Similarly, the danger of sin is alienation from God.

Two terms that Paul uses to describe the object of God's wrath are "ungodliness" and "unrighteousness." The former term refers to irreverence toward God and the latter refers to injustice toward men. The fact that the ungodly and the unrighteous persons "hold down" or

suppress the truth points out that they cannot claim innocence by ignorance. A knowledge of the truth precedes a denial or a suppression of its reality.

Another reason for man's inexcusable situation is that the creation bears witness to its maker. Paul says the evidence for this is two-fold: (1) man's inner moral nature (v. 19) and (2) the external universe (v. 20). The knowledge of God's existence is apparent in every man's conscience. Most of the agnostics and atheists I have witnessed to have demonstrated an awareness of God despite their willful denial of his presence. Furthermore, what man sees in the designed order points toward the Designer. The structure of the world and the universe bear witness to God. To think that the rotation of the earth, the proper atmosphere, the nature of plant and animal life, and the wonder of human life "just happened" requires a great deal of incredulity! Paul affirms that God made it happen and his work reveals himself to us.

A third reason mankind is "without excuse" is that no one can stand innocently under the perfect judgment of God. (Rom. 2:1-4) The

Jews were some of the most morally and ceremoniously clean people of the first century. They obeyed the ten commandments and other moral laws with rigorous discipline. But not even "morality" was sufficient to earn salvation. Paul said it didn't matter if one were a Jew or a Gentile the judgment of God was impartial and without exceptions.

The Jews had judged the Gentiles according to their own standard and by doing so actually condemned themselves. Herein is an important truth: Those who recognize sin in others show that they know what conduct is sinful and do not have an excuse for that conduct. Under God's standard, everyone is a sinner and there are no sinners anonymous. The filth of the flesh lurks close to each of us, whether we reside in poverty or in affluence and "there is no respect of persons with God" (Rom. 2:11). God does not play favorites. He will judge each person fairly. He is righteous. He has revealed his will and salvation through his Son Jesus Christ. Since we are all "without excuse" we cling to his grace.

M. Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.

God protects his Son; Herod murders children

By Gayle Alexander
Matthew 1:1 to 2:23

One of Matthew's major purposes in his gospel was to convince the people of Jesus as Messiah. The family line from Abraham to Jesus was clearly intended to present the claim of Jesus to the throne of David. No one could expect serious consideration by the Jews as the Messiah unless he could prove his royal descent from David. So Jesus is presented as both son of Abraham and David, but also, he is pictured as David's Lord

(22:41-46), thus revealing that the true sons of Abraham share his faith and not just his flesh. The circumstances of the birth are related from Joseph's standpoint (1:18-25). In Matthew the stress is upon the divine origin of Jesus "conceived . . . of the Holy Spirit" (1:18).

Matthew alone records the story about the wise men from the East. These wise men may very well have been in possession of scriptures from the days of Daniel and other prophets

Alexander
Alexander
Matthew 2:1 to 2:23

from Israel who were slaves in Babylon. But these Gentile wise men are set in stark contrast to the wise men of Judaism who rejected Jesus Christ. Herod, an Edomite, was made king by Rome in 43 and ruled until 4 B.C. He became alarmed that wise men were looking for a king of the Jews.

His alarm alarmed all Jerusalem because of his notorious reputation for killing people.

Herod killed one of his wives, three of his sons, and a host of other people who were close to him. Who would be next? All Jerusalem was alarmed. Herod inquired of the scribes and Pharisees where Jesus was to be born and he was given the prophecy from Micah 5:2 indicating Bethlehem. He further inquired of the wise men as to when the star had first appeared so that he might more easily locate, identify, and destroy Jesus. He did this under the pretense of sincerity. The star, which they had seen in the East, now appeared to guide them to Bethlehem and to the house where Jesus was (2:9, 11). One needs to note here that Jesus was

found in a house, not in a manger, so the time factor probably may have been weeks, months, and perhaps even beyond a year since the birth of Jesus (1:16).

The idea of three wise men came from three gifts having been presented. However, their number is not identified. Also, the legend that these wise men were kings is a notion quite contrary to every New Testament picture of the humble beginnings of Jesus. The gifts the wise men presented to Jesus, gold, frankincense and myrrh, were normal and those intended for a king. Matthew's interest in the Magi was to indicate Gentile recognition of Jesus. Matthew was confronting a Judaism that had rejected Jesus. The homage of the wise men was emphatically presenting Christ as Messiah, king of the Jews. But also, Matthew was presenting Christ as king of the entire world. A special revelation of God directed the wise men to avoid Herod on their return (1:12).

The story of the flight into Egypt (2:16-18) reveals some of the basic concerns of Matthew. One is the humble beginning, the rejection and flight foreshadowing the cross. Second is the hand of God compelling men of all kinds, good and bad, to serve his ultimate purpose. God in-

tervened to protect his Son (2:13-15). Joseph was specifically instructed to flee to Egypt where a large Jewish population was located. The hurried trip seems to have begun the same night the wise men departed, indicating extreme urgency. Furthermore, he was to remain in Egypt until after the death of Herod. Matthew quotes Hosea 11:1, a reference to the exodus, and applies the prophecy to Christ: "... out of Egypt have I called my son" (2:15).

Herod's murderous act of killing all male children two years old and under was typical. He was taking no chances of missing his intended victim. Two years of age and under was calculated from the time of the appearing of the star.

For the third time, the angel of the Lord had appeared to Joseph, and this time informed him of Herod's death (2:19). He was told to return to Israel (2:20). Archelaus, Herod's notorious son, reigned in Judaea and Joseph was further warned about remaining in Judaea, so he moved the family to Nazareth in Galilee. Probably the connection of Nazareth with prophecy (2:23) was to indicate that Messiah would be despised (Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 22:6).

Gayle Alexander is pastor, First, Tupelo.

The disciples' commission: "Go and make disciples"

Matthew 24:24-34; 28:16-20

By Jimmy G. McGee

The resurrected Jesus stood before his disciples, announced his authority over heaven and earth, and commissioned them to make disciples of all people. Discipling others is the main business of kingdom citizens, then and now.

It seems appropriate to link together the two scriptures of Matthew. Each can stand alone. Together, the former establishes the right Christian perspective for receiving the latter Christian task of evangelizing the world.

A friend of mine liked to repeat a saying, "The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing." The emphasis of Matthew 6:24-34 is about the main thing. Verse 33 expresses it, "Seek you first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." The kingdom of God refers to the rule of God in the believer's heart and life. It is honoring God's will and way. Seeking first the kingdom demands our undivided loyalty. In verse 24, Jesus insists that no man can serve two masters. A slave is owned by one master, and he cannot give his loyalty to another!



McGee

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The contest is between God and mammon. Herein is the major struggle for most humans and most professing Christians.

God is eternal and provides the abiding value of life to all who believe. He is the sovereign owner of the universe and all riches are in his hand to give. He will share his riches with those who devote themselves to him in faith and service. In God's blessing, material things are essential and useful in contributing to man's good. Therefore: trust God completely and seek his interests unreservedly, and he will supply all your needs.

Mammon represents material riches alone and apart from God's blessing. Materialism overemphasizes the value of material things. Covetousness is a consuming force and anxious worry is a debilitating consequence. Seeking material possessions as the major quest of life displaces God. One can become so encumbered with things that one's best energies are spent with getting and maintaining. So doing, material things are a rival to God for human affection. Christians are kidding themselves in thinking they can divide devotion between God and money. Christians must

establish a balance in life that honors the Lordship of Christ.

A basic reason why we are doing a poor job of evangelizing the world is in our attitude about money. Honoring "the tithe is the Lord's" is a practical help in overcoming covetousness and in seeking first the kingdom. No amount of insisting "I love the Lord" can offset one's stinginess in giving to God's work through his church.

When we allow the rule of God in our hearts, God promises to sustain us in all our material, physical, and emotional needs. And when our priority of wanting God's way is in place, response to Jesus' commission will follow with obedient enthusiasm.

Jesus' commission may be accurately translated, "Going therefore, make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you, and lo, I myself am with you all the days until the completion of the age."

The main verb in the commission is "make disciples." We are always on the go, going some place and in touch with someone. Make disciples among your acquaintances. The most effective evangelism is one to one. Most decisions registered in our churches today are the

result of personal witnessing encounters.

"Baptizing" and "teaching" are helped participles that complete the meaning and describe the action of discipling. It is important to keep the verse intact.

Conversion is only the beginning of Christian life. Without baptizing and teaching, making disciples is misunderstood and incomplete. The church and the believer are responsible at this point. Baptism publicly identifies the believer with Jesus and his church. Baptism by immersion pictures the gospel message in Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. Teaching to observe is not just giving out information. It is instruction that involves the believer in obedience to Christ.

As baptizing and teaching are important to the commission, so is the promise of Jesus' presence. Always in the Bible this promise is a companion to divine assignments. Christians are wrong to claim the promise without accepting the assignment. Whenever God assigns a task, he assures the worker of his presence to sustain.

Every Christian is to participate in reaching his community and world for Christ. It calls for a total investment of our lives and a lifestyle that deliberately places God's work above the concern for earthly possessions.

Jimmy G. McGee is pastor, First, Grenada.

THE VILLAGE VIEW

The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, MS 39213, (601) 922-2242

Accredited by the National Association of Homes for Children

Licensed by the State of Mississippi

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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March 9, 1988

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Baptist Record

Cothen's dream fulfilled

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — A project developed in 1983 to meet a need for Bible study materials among Baptist pastors and laypersons in many nations has been completed.

More than 6,300 mini-libraries of Broadman Press and Holman books had been shipped to Baptist leaders in more than 73 countries by the end of 1987, Lloyd Elder, president of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, told the board's trustees.

The worldwide distribution of books for study and sermon preparation was begun as a tribute to Elder's predecessor, Grady C. Cothen, at his retirement in 1984. The former board president had been concerned about a lack of tools for ministry and preaching among Baptist pastors in many nations. Cothen lives in Pass Christian, Miss.

Cothen noted the needs while participating in Baptist World Alliance meetings in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America. He had been chairman of the BWA's education committee.

Cothen said at the time his participation in those meetings "indicated to me the great lack of tools for ministry and preaching among Baptist pastors in many nations."

Friends of Cothen and trustees of the Sunday School Board provided funds to supply the books, while the Baptist World Alliance provided postage costs and secured the names of Baptist leaders to receive the books. At the end of the project, \$162,000 had been provided in books, with another \$47,000 spent in shipping costs.

Five categories of mini-libraries were provided during the course of the project. Theological mini-libraries consisted of 14 volumes; basic libraries, 10 volumes; Spanish, 10



John Tala, pastor of Katuluni Baptist Church, Malindi, Kenya, sent this photograph to the Baptist World Alliance acknowledging the gift of a mini-library. An accompanying note said the books "will help me and others in understanding more deeply the Word of God and recognizing the wonders of his love more strongly and clearly."

volumes; Eastern Europe/China, 9 volumes; and The Holman Master Study Bible, a one-volume library. The total number of books provided exceeded 66,600.

Most of the mini-libraries were basic and theological, said Elder, with 83 percent of the shipments in that category. Spanish, Eastern Europe/China, and the one-volume mini-libraries made up the remaining 17 percent.

The joint project provided recipients "access to materials of their own for the first time," Elder said. "In some countries, books like these are available, but the cost is prohibitive.

In other countries, such books are not available at any cost."

Letters of appreciation from recipients indicate little or no available study materials prior to the gift of books.

Pastor Thank God Obudu of Nigeria wrote: "Apart from the teachings in the college, I had not even a single theological textbook to make research.

"I can now read wider to broaden my knowledge in the ministry. I have been testifying about this miracle to many people, because it remains a miracle."

Charles Willis writes for the Sunday School Board.

Biblical definition of worship urged for many Baptist churches

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — Many Southern Baptist congregations call "anything and everything" worship and ignore God, indicating an urgent need for biblical study of worship, according to a denominational educator and worship scholar.

Bruce Leafblad, associate professor of church music and worship and chair of prayer and spiritual formation at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, said many Southern Baptists' definitions of worship come from tradition rather than serious Bible study, resulting in gatherings of Christians who "really don't know what worship is."

"Our people don't know what it is because we leaders don't know what it is," Leafblad told ministers of music

in a national seminar at the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board in Nashville. "We don't know what it is experientially or theologically. We have called anything and everything worship."

Southern Baptists "have so emphasized the human side of God's plan that we have humanized something very God-centered," he said. "What God is really about is a search for worshippers."

"God can't be first if the functions and actions that make him first are second. Worship is about the priority of God in our values, affections and commitments."

Urging ministers of music to "look at the points in the service where persons are directed toward God," he told

them: "Worship is a vertical conversation with God, not a horizontal conversation about God. The leaders aren't the center of a worship service simply because there is a stage and they perform on it. Worship is the way the church comes before God and tells him how much he means to us, how much we love him and how committed we are to him."

"God didn't send Jesus to die on the cross for what he could get out of us. God is self-sufficient. We are the ones in desperate need of him."

"True worship is offered to God for his sake, for his pleasure, for his glory," he said.

Charles Willis writes for the Sunday School Board.



Powerline for teens

"I have a problem with my mother"

QUESTION

I have such a problem with my mother. It seems like no matter what I do, she's never satisfied. She always has an idea of how I could have done it better. When I start to do something, she comes in and takes over, and then gets mad at me for not finishing what I start. I know sometimes I mess things up, but wouldn't it be better for me to make my own mistakes? What's with her?

ANSWER

It sounds as if we have some problems here with self-esteem—and that works in two directions. Your mother's actions are causing you to develop poor self-esteem. You doubt yourself because she appears to have no confidence in you. That's understandable, but you

must not let yourself simply live in reaction to what others do. Try to be involved in activities which use your special gifts, with persons who can give you the kind of affirmation you are needing. Don't keep expecting something from your mother that she can't give. In a way, that would be treating her the way she is treating you!

Her criticalness probably is rooted in a lack of self-esteem within herself. She may have a need to control others and gain attention by showing off her abilities at every point. If you can see her actions in this light, it may help you have patience with her interference. If you make a special effort to give her some strokes, by expressing appreciation or admiration for her, it might help to lessen her need for affirmation.

Can you talk with her about the problem? She may not even realize that she comes across in this way. She may see it as her way of expressing interest in your activities. If you talk together honestly and lovingly, you may be able to develop some guidelines which will help you draw closer together, instead of becoming hostile and resentful.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

Calls leave no stone unturned!

NASHVILLE (BP) — Fortunately, nobody tried to order the proverbial kitchen sink March 1 on the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's new toll-free ordering system.

With that exception, however, more than 600 callers took a no-holds-barred approach as they prowled for flags, puzzles, Bibles, offering plates, envelopes, and nearly every supply imaginable.

One day hardly qualifies as the basis for determining trends, but first-day orderers seemed to lean toward Vacation Bible School materials more than any other single product area, said customer service center manager David Wilkins.

They also ordered Convention Press and Broadman books, home mission study and January Bible study materials, church study course products, communion ware, and church literature.

The board hopes to let churches call one number to order anything produced by a program component, Wilkins said. Some special order items — such as steeples, choir robes or computers — have to be referred, but the customer service representatives should be able to handle nearly every order for board materials, he added.

Even for a kitchen sink, all is not lost. A kitchen sink educational product for children is available from Broadman, but the customer service representative at 1-800-458-BSSB will refer calls to another number to get just the right size and color.

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